



NO. 7126

Sen. Kennedy urges diplomacy to end war

MANAMA, Dec 25. (AP): US Senator Edward Kennedy called today for "powerful diplomacy" from Washington to help end the Iraq-Iran conflict as he wound up his Christmas round of US Navy units in the war-troubled region.

"The United States must combine political initiatives with our military presence in the Gulf. We must supplement our potent military force with equally powerful diplomacy," said the Democratic senator from Massachusetts in a statement on his five-day trip to the region.

"We must use our leverage at the United Nations and in our bilateral relations to force an end to the carnage of the Iran-Iraq war," Kennedy said in the statement released by his aides.

Kennedy met with leaders in Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman, three of the six Gulf Arab states, where concern has been mounting over the expanding menace of the seven-year-old conflict.

Views

Kennedy visited Kuwait briefly yesterday to exchange views on current developments in the Gulf.

Kennedy held talks with Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rasheed, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohamad Al Osaimi and Oil Minister Sheikh Al Al Khalifa on the latest developments in the region, including the Gulf war and safeguarding the oil flow through the Arabian Gulf.

During his trip, Kennedy visited the USS La Salle, command ship of the 11-unit US Middle East force that patrols the 600-mile (1,000-km) Gulf, as well as the amphibious assault ship USS Okinawa inside the waterway. He visited the cruiser USS Sterett, the aircraft carrier Midway, the battleship USS Iowa in the northern Arabian Sea outside the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Kennedy was effusive with praise for the servicemen who he said were brought out by a conflict that involved "vital interests of the United States."

UN force should protect shipping: Zayed

CAIRO, Dec 25. (Agencies): United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan called in an interview published today for an international force to ensure free navigation in the Gulf.

Kennedy held talks with Kuwaiti Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rasheed, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohamad Al Osaimi and Oil Minister Sheikh Al Al Khalifa on the latest developments in the region, including the Gulf war and safeguarding the oil flow through the Arabian Gulf.

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Kennedy was effusive with praise for the servicemen who he said were brought out by a conflict that involved "vital interests of the United States."

"The Gulf is important to many countries in Asia, Africa and Europe, and not only to its people."

Foreign naval forces in the Gulf include the US, Italy, France and Britain.

Embargo

Sheikh Zayed's view partly corresponds with that of the Soviet Union which has been demanding the deployment of a UN naval force, while the United States calls for an arms embargo against Iran to force it to comply with a UN Security Council resolution.

He said he proposed at last month's Arab summit that a committee of three Arab leaders should go to Iran and try to persuade their leaders to arbitration in the case of the old Gulf war.

Rejected

The proposal was rejected by most leaders at the Nov 8 summit in Amman in favour of a declaration of support for a ceasefire call by the UN Security Council in July, Sheikh Zayed said.

He said it did not matter whether Iraq was not able to pay war damages if it proved to be the aggressor, adding: "We are guarantors."

Asked whether he thought the present foreign forces patrolling the Gulf provided protection of navigation, Sheikh Zayed said: "If the war were to continue, the United Nations must form a special international force to contain the danger."

Soviets drop opposition to arms embargo

Security Council expresses concern

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 25. (Agencies): The Soviet Union yesterday dropped its opposition to impose an arms embargo on Iran and Iraq and joined other members of the UN Security Council to work out the measure if the seven-year-old war goes on unabated.

The 15-nation council, after days of consultations, issued a Christmas Eve statement expressing its "grave concern over the slow pace and lack of real progress" in its efforts to end the war.

The council is "determined to bring the conflict to an end as soon as possible, the members of the Security Council reaffirm their commitment to resolution

(Continued on Page 2)

598 as an integrated whole," said the statement, which was read by council president Aleksandr Belonogov of the Soviet Union.

"The members of the Security Council declare their determination . . . to consider further steps to ensure compliance with this resolution," the statement said.

State Department spokesman Dennis Harter said: "We welcome the statement because it again clearly puts the council on record as determined to bring the conflict to an end as soon as possible."

Belonogov told reporters to Secretary-General Javier Perez

(Continued on Page 2)

WEATHER

Fromme recaptured

ALDERSON, West Virginia, Dec 25. (AP): Lynette "Squeaky" Fromme, who escaped from the federal prison where she was serving a life sentence for the attempted assassination of former President Gerald Ford, was recaptured today, officials said.

Fromme was apprehended near the Alderson Federal prison for women, from which she escaped on Wednesday night, said US Marshal James P. Hickman.

"One of the guards on duty was going out and she came out of the woods," Hickman said.

Fromme was serving a life term but had been eligible for parole consideration since 1985.

Dhaka opposition calls for new protests

DHAKA, Dec 25. (Agencies): A 21-party opposition alliance demanding the resignation of President Hossain Mohammad Ershad announced today a new round of strikes and rallies in its six-week-old campaign to force the Bangladeshi leader from office.

A spokesman for the coalition, led by the Awami League of Sheikh Hasina Wajed and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party of Begum Khalida Zia, said the next phase of the movement would begin with rallies tomorrow and continue for nine days.

Agreed

An eight-hour nationwide general strike the 16th since the anti-Ershad drive was launched Nov 10 will be called for the end of a two-day general strike in



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A rescuer is being lowered from a British helicopter on the blazing cargo ship Hyundai 7. (Reuter radiophoto)

Iranians fire at US helicopter

Crew rescued from blazing freighter

MANAMA, Dec 25. (Agencies): US and British naval helicopters on Christmas Day plucked some 30 Korean seamen to safety from a freighter set ablaze in an Iranian attack, Gulf maritime salvage executives reported.

The 19,682-ton Hyundai 7, a South Korean freighter laden with unspecified cargo for Gulf Arab ports, was attacked by Iranian gunboats about 20 miles (32 kms) northeast of the emirate of Sharjah, said the executives of Sharjah, who named the ship.

A helicopter from the guided-missile frigate USS Ebro, and one from the British warship Scylla, hovered near the Liberian tanker Eastern Power on Christmas Eve and may have succeeded in aborting an attack by the Iranians.

Yesterday Iranian speedboats opened fire with machine guns at a US Navy helicopter which flew to investigate their attack on a Liberian tanker in the Gulf.

The freighter Hyundai 7, was attacked from the starboard side and fire was still raging aboard its crew quarters about three hours after the attack, they said.

It was the second time this month that US Navy warships had been involved in a rescue mission for vessels attacked by the Iranians in the southern part of the waterway.

Earlier reports said a helicopter chartered by the American television network CBS was also involved in the rescue mission aboard the Hyundai 7.

Control

The London-based Lloyd's shipping intelligence unit said the cargo aboard the vessel had also caught fire and the vessel was steaming out of control. A salvage tugboat owned by the Dutch firm Smit International was rushing to try to extinguish the flames, it added.

Helicopters from the guided-missile destroyer USS Chandler, one of the warships of the 11-unit US Middle East force that patrol the Gulf waters, and the CBS helicopter, on Dec 12 alternated in rescuing 40 persons from aboard the Cypriot tanker Pivotal after it was set ablaze in an Iranian raid.

A day later, the Chandler sent one of its helicopters to check on

Punjab clash

AMRITSAR, India, Dec 25. (Reuter): Police and Sikh extremists fought a gunbattle on Christmas day in a village in the northern state of Punjab, leaving two separatists and a policeman dead.

Accepted

"It has got nothing to do with our current state of economy or whatever some opposition leaders are trying to make out," Information Minister Anwar Zaidi said.

Begum Zia said she was told the minister resigned because he felt unable to run the ministry any longer. She told journalists he quit because he could not face

going to international aid donors again for money.

She and Hasina have refused to talk peace with Ershad and demanded that the President resign after handing over to a neutral caretaker government.

Syeduzzaman, 57, a former civil servant, became a finance adviser in 1984 and finance minister last year when Ershad restored civilian democracy after his four and half years of military rule.

Accepted

Syeduzzaman, who was not a member of Parliament and declined to enter politics, played an important role in seeking aid for Bangladesh.

"The economy may wait, but let us solve our political questions once and for all," Hasina said.

Karachi prison mutiny crushed

KARACHI, Dec 25. (Reuter): Police quelled a mutiny yesterday by about 2,000 prisoners at Karachi's high security central jail, police said.

Jail sources said police used gunfire and teargas to put down the 10-hour mutiny. They said about 90 prisoners and prison staff were injured and more than 20 jail barracks damaged.

No formal government account of injuries and damage was immediately available but police sources said an emergency was declared at about 60 police stations in Pakistan's biggest city.

They said more than 1,000 police and para-military forces cordoned off the jail in central Karachi, where residents said they saw ambulances rushing to and from the jail.

Saved

"It was obviously a mutiny and an attempt at jail break but tactful handling . . . saved the situation," Karachi police chief Ifthikhar Rasheed told reporters.

He said some prisoners incited others to violence after the death on Monday of jail inmate Mohammad Ramzan.

Three political organisations have accused jail authorities of causing the death by torture.

A spokesman of the Mohajir National Movement said jails had been turned into "torture cells" and demanded stringent measures against the prison administration and doctors for negligence of duty.

Eye witnesses said some of the prisoners cut barbed wire and climbed watch towers to hurl stones at the police and prison guards.

Jail officials said doctors were alerted at government hospitals and several fire tenders were sent to the 100-year-old jail. It was built to hold about 1,000 inmates but now has around 3,000, including some political prisoners.

The mutiny was one of the biggest at the Karachi jail since the creation of Pakistan 40 years ago, they said.

The government has ordered an inquiry into Ramzan's death and the mutiny, the officials said.

Road accident

ANKARA, Dec 25. (Reuter): Thirteen people died and 40 were injured in a multiple pile-up between a heavy lorry and two buses in the central Turkish province of Karslur today.

State radio quoted officials as saying they feared the death toll would rise.

More than 1,000 Palestinians held

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, Dec 25. (Agencies): More than 1,000 Palestinians arrested by Israeli security forces are still in custody after two weeks of rioting in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, security sources said today.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin warned that arrests would continue. "We are going after those organisers who have come into the schools, their faces masked, and forced pupils, often against their will, to riot," he said in an interview.

The Palestine Press Service, an East Jerusalem-based Arab news agency opposed to Israeli occupation, disputed Israeli figures and said the number of those held was closer to 2,500.

(Continued on Page 2)



morning tens of thousands of people jammed the streets of Madras, looted shops and burned vehicles in a bid to impose total mourning.

Ramachandran was a Hindu and although Hindus cremate their dead, Ramachandran was buried because of a Tamil custom for leaders they consider immortal.

"We believe that immortal leaders should be buried and not cremated so that people can feel their presence," said Ananta Swaminathan, a Tamil scholar.

A granite block was placed on his grave where a memorial will be built.

A contingent of Indian Army buglers sounded the Last Post.

More than 3,500 paramilitary troops were brought into the city as reinforcements to patrol the streets, a police officer said.

Suicide by hanging or self-immolation is a common method to demonstrate grief in Tamil Nadu. An estimated 20 people committed suicide when Ramachandran suffered stroke in 1984.

Actor

He was later treated in a New York hospital, but the stroke impaired his speech and most of his public addresses were delivered by his colleagues.

Ramachandran was a popular movie actor and he took part in 130 Tamil-language films.

His Anna Dravida Munnetra (Continued on Page 2)

10 commit suicide in grief

Million mourn death of MGR

MADRAS, Dec 25. (Agencies): About a million mourners, wailing and beating their chests in sorrow, attended the funeral of India's top Tamil leader today, witnesses said.

Police opened fire on the mourners, killing at least two and wounding 16 after some of them went into frenzy to get a last glimpse of Marudur Gopalam Ramachandran, police and witnesses said.

Jail sources said police used gunfire and teargas to put down the 10-hour mutiny. They said about 90 prisoners and prison staff were injured and more than 20 jail barracks damaged.

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was immediately available but police sources said an emergency was declared at about 60 police stations in Pakistan's biggest city.

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Karachi, where residents

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Police

at least 10

INTERNATIONAL

Space-record cosmonaut returning to earth

MOSCOW, Dec 25. (Reuter): Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Romanenko, who has spent a record 323 days in space, will return to earth from the space station Mir on Dec 29 with his crewmate Alexander Alexandrov, a Soviet space official said today.

The announcement by Alexei Leonov, deputy chief of the cosmonaut training centre, was the first time Soviet officials have given a firm date for Romanenko's return. Earlier they had indicated he would return about 31.

"We plan that Romanenko and Alexandrov will land return to earth, on the 29th, in a few days time," Leonov told a news conference at the Foreign Ministry.

Mission

He added that Romanenko, 43, would not be expected to take part in another space mission for the next year.

Romanenko, Alexandrov and three other Soviet cosmonauts who joined them this week are crowded aboard the Mir orbiting space station.

Alexandrov replaced Romanenko's original crewmate Alexander Lavekin, who was brought back to earth in July when his heartbeat developed

irregularities.

Vladimir Titov, Musa Manarov and Anatoly Levchenko docked their Soyuz TM-4 space craft with Mir on Wednesday.

The Soviet news agency Tass said yesterday that they had begun conducting biological experiments and that all five cosmonauts were feeling well.

Levchenko will return to earth with Romanenko and Alexander.

Manage

The official Communist Party newspaper Pravda said today that Levchenko, a test pilot, will immediately be placed in a plane to test his ability to manage the controls after returning to conditions of gravity from weightlessness.

Referring to proposals for a joint US-Soviet flight to Mars, Leonov said that Soviet space officials had recently suggested this to the American side and they were still waiting for a reply.

"We can say that practical steps have already been taken," he said, but did not elaborate.

Leonov also gave details of plans for a Bulgarian cosmonaut, Alexandrov Panayotov, to join the Mir complex on June 21 next year for a 10-day mission.

Million mourn MGR

(Continued from Page 1)

Kazhagam Party is closely aligned with Rajiv's Congress Party.

Rajiv and President Ramaswamy Venkataranam went to Madras yesterday to offer condolences.

Ramachandran, who was born in 1917 on a tea plantation in Sri Lanka, was a central figure in negotiations between New Delhi and Colombo on measures to end the four-year-old civil war on the island waged by Tamil

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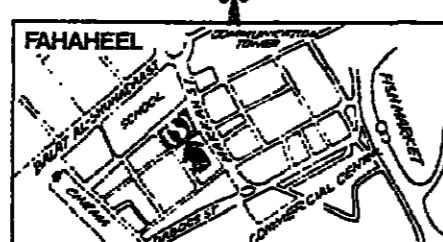
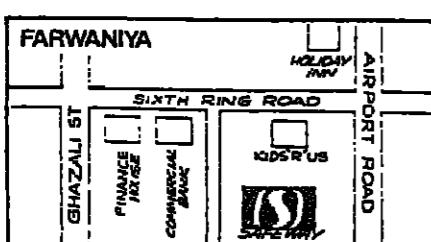
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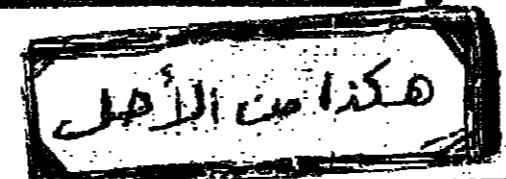


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NEWS IN BRIEF

Old liquor

BEIJING, Dec 25. (AP): Chinese archeologists say 3,000-year-old liquor discovered in bronze containers in central China still retains a fruity fragrance.

The official Xinhua news agency said yesterday that China's earliest liquor had been found at a burial site in Luoyang county, Henan province, thought to date back to the Shang Dynasty (16th to 11th centuries BC).

Businessman freed

PADUA, Italy, Dec 25. (Reuter): An Italian businessman abducted nearly three weeks ago was set free by his kidnappers today and returned to his family for Christmas Day.

Poole said Claudio Sartori, 54, had been dumped overnight about 400 km south of his home at Montagnana, near the city of Padua. Police drove him home to his wife and four children on Christmas morning. He appeared in good health.

Xmas truce

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, Dec 25. (AP): The Sandinista government and Contra rebels pledged to abide by a Christmas truce today, despite reports of at least three violations in its first 24 hours.

The two-day truce proposed by cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo was to start at midnight Wednesday. It was the first such agreement reached a six years of war between the leftist government and US-supported rebels.

Ingram dies

BURBANK, California, Dec 25. (AP): Silent screen actress Alice Terry Ingram, who co-starred with such early movie idols as Rudolph Valentino and Ramon Novaro, has died at age 88.

Mrs. Ingram died on Tuesday in a Burbank hospital following a prolonged illness.

Border clash

BANGKOK, Dec 25. (AP): United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar was quoted today as saying he will encourage negotiations settlement of recent border clashes between Thailand and Laos.

The official Laotian news agency KPL, monitored in Bangkok, said Laos' permanent representative to the United Nations, Kitthong Vongkay, met Perez De Cuellar on Tuesday and told him of "the gravity of the situation."

10 detained

BELING, Dec 25. (AP): The manager of a construction firm and nine other people have been arrested for paying bribes to 200,000 yuan (\$54,000) to government officials, a state-run daily said today.

Bingo Day 11

14 70 51 20

8th GCC summit opens today



HH the Amir

THE 8th summit conference of the supreme Gulf Cooperation Council member-state leaders opens in Riyadh today.

The earlier seven GCC summit conferences were held consecutively in the following Gulf capitals: Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Manama, Doha, Kuwait, Muscat and Abu Dhabi. This is the second summit conference to be held in Riyadh since the GCC's inception in 1981.

According to the prelude of the working paper ratified during the holding of the first GCC session on 26-5-1981, the emergence of the GCC came in recognition of the historical, social, cultural, economic, political and strategic stage through which the Arabian Gulf region passed or will continue to pass through in the future, and this is presently much more demanding than any time before and in favour of the public interests of the people of the region.

Solidarity

Arab solidarity which binds Arab states with the Gulf is worth being demonstrated in a mutual framework, following all positive, efficient, bilateral and collective steps carried out till present, and which should more

Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan

preferably and clearly underline the interests of the people of the region.

Over the past seven years, the GCC's achievements made the council worthy of confidence as to the attainment of its objectives at all Gulf, Arab or international levels.

Goal

The emergence of the GCC which was called for by Gulf leaders amid a phase of dangerous, continuous and very critical developments was not a mere coincidence.

Though the upcoming eighth GCC session in Riyadh follows the extraordinary Arab summit conference convened in Amman last November, the resolutions, recommendations and steps

expected to be taken by the GCC supreme council will be integrative to those of the Arab summit and demonstrative of growing tenacity among all Arab states.

Discussions during the GCC

meeting held at foreign ministerial level in Riyadh last week, focussed on issues on the agenda, which will be referred as resolutions and recommendations related to political, economic or other matters of concern, to the

Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad

GCC supreme council for further discussion and ratification.

Fortunately the GCC ministerial council meeting had all elements of agreement and efficiency, according to the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Saud Al Faisal added that the GCC's basic goal was always to bring the Iraq-Iran war, raging since September 1980, to an end, and all its resolutions are aimed in this direction.

Meanwhile, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed, who returned home after attending the GCC ministerial meeting in Riyadh, called for more serious and continuous work for surpassing this stage and achieving the aspirations and hopes of the GCC members.

Topic

He expressed hope that the upcoming GCC summit conference in Riyadh would be a success, and that the Gulf leaders would propel the council towards wider horizons of international cooperation.

The 8th GCC summit in

Riyadh will be attended by HH the Amir of Kuwait, the UAE President Sheikh Zayed, the Amir of Qatar, Sheikh Khalifa Bin Hamad Al Thani, Sultan

Qaboos of Oman, the Amir of Bahrain, Sheikh Issa Bin Salman and King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Destiny

Indeed the 8th Gulf summit is the object on which people of the area pin hopes of success in realising targets and avoiding crises and shortcomings of the deterioration of Gulf security as a result of the dangerous and continuous escalation of the Iraq-Iran war as well as implications of events of Arab solidarity during the last few years.

This should urge the GCC to initiate the prerogatives which would lead to bolstering Arab solidarity needed for confronting defiance and perils threatening the Arab destiny at all levels.

Meanwhile, Ibrahim Bin Hamoud Al Subhi, the secretary-general of the higher committee for conferences affairs, reiterated that the security and stability problem in the Gulf region would be the most important topic to be discussed by the heads of the states of the Gulf Cooperation Council when they meet in Riyadh from today.

In an interview with "Oman" Arabic daily, Subhi added that the meeting will be held at a

critical political situation in the region due to the recent developments in the Gulf.

He said the supreme council will also discuss continuing negotiations with the aggrieved parties in the Iran-Iraq war, especially with the former. He explained the sultanate's active role in negotiations with Iraq and Iran to stop the war. Oman-Syria recent contacts came to crown the prominent and distinguished role played by Sultan Qaboos during Amman summit, he added.

Subhi said that the Riyadh summit will also work to strengthen the accord reached between the Arab leaders at the Amman summit.

Security strategy discussed by the ministers of interior and development of the military cooperation will also come under discussion during the summit, Subhi said.

Speaking of the higher committee for conferences he said the committee under the chairmanship of Sayyid Fahd Bin Mabood Al Said, the Deputy Prime Minister for Legal Affairs, includes nine ministers and the secretary-general of the council of minister. The committee, he added, coordinates the sultanate's participation and role in international and GCC conferences and meetings.

In Abu Dhabi, UAE President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahayan received a report on the

outcome of the meeting of the foreign ministers of the GCC.

The report also includes the agenda of the GCC summit due to start today in Riyadh.

The report was presented by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Rashid Abdullah during a meeting with Sheikh Zayed at the presidential court here.

Information centre

The Amir of the Riyadh region Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz on Thursday paid a visit to Kuna's offices at the information centre of the Saudi Information Ministry, designed to cover events of the eighth summit for GCC leaders.

Prince Salman met with Kuna's mission members and expressed his readiness to eliminate any difficulties that might confront them while performing their press duties.

Amir of Riyadh also inspected the remaining sections of the centre, including radio photos gadgets, fax machines, duplex lines and hotlines which link Gulf news agencies with the main headquarters in their respective countries.

Later, GCC Secretary General Abdalla Ya'qoub Bishara visited the Kuna mission and got acquainted with the equipment inside the centre.

Bishara said that the GCC general secretariat is ready to surround all the difficulties newsmen to their duties to the ultra.

These meetings led to the convening of the first meeting of GCC defence ministers in Riyadh on Jan 25, 1982 to define priorities in the field of defence, added.

One of the most distinguished meetings in this effect had been a joint meeting of GCC foreign and defence ministers to achieve some sort of coordination between military and foreign policies.

During this meeting, the participants had come out with the joint defence paper, which had once again confirmed that the security and stability of the region is the sole responsibility of the region's states.

This joint defence paper is the principal document, which defines member states' methods and strategies of defence and highlights ways of promoting the military cooperation, Major General Al Saloum said.

"It has become clear to all us that elements of the military cooperation objectives have been realised during the last seven years," he said.

He added that the GCC defence ministers' conference held in Abu Dhabi on September 21, 1987, had laid the foundation of a new and collective work in the field of military defence at this stage of the GCC's development.

"Moreover, the conference decided to deepen military cooperation, strengthen bases of integration and increase coordination between member states in order to face collectively any threats to the security of the Gulf citizens and their countries," he said.

Major General Al Saloum said the conference had underlined the necessity of deepening defence links as soon as possible on the basis of the GCC joint defence strategy's objectives.

Military cooperation between GCC states

RIYADH, Dec 25, (Kuna): The concept of military cooperation between member states of the Gulf Cooperation Council relies on the collective defence, coordination and cooperation within the framework of the Islamic religion, the joint national and regional interests. Major General Yousef Ibrahim Al Saloum, commander of Madina region, said here yesterday.

He made these observations in a comprehensive analysis entitled "Military Cooperation Between the GCC States," made available to the Saudi Press Agency, on the eve of the eighth GCC summit due to start its deliberations in Riyadh on Saturday.

"Military cooperation means the establishment of links between forces in the fields of training, military operations, organisation, armament, supply, equipment and exchange of visits and scholars in order to transfer technology and technical know-how."

Saloum said military cooperation between world states had taken many spheres such as Nato and Warsaw Pacts, the Joint Arab Defence Treaty, the international peace forces of the United Nations and other alliances.

Unique

He said the GCC states' military cooperation is a unique experiment in view of the region's strategies, cultural, social, economic, political and religious bonds which link them.

The idea of military cooperation between GCC members had crystallised after the first meeting of GCC leaders in Abu Dhabi in April, 1981 when the six heads of state signed the basic statute of the council and confirmed that the security and stability of the Gulf region is the sole responsibility of its peoples and states.

After this meeting, military departments, in each member state began to think over the steps which should be taken to solidify this cooperation and military experts and strategists began series of meetings, Saloum said.

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Symposium on aviation safety

KHALIFA Al Nasar, from the Aviation Safety Department of Kuwait's Civil Aviation Authority, said that steady progress is being made in the development of aviation programmes in Kuwait and their integration with related areas.

In a symposium held by the Kuwaiti Pilots and Aviation

Engineering Society, Al Nasar explained some of the duties of the Aviation Safety Department, saying that the department follows up on investigating accidents and their causes and is responsible for the ongoing technical supervision and maintenance of safety procedures for Kuwait registered airplanes.

such activities as the construction of mosques, schools, hospitals and agricultural works at an approximate cost of \$8.5 million.

Dr Khaled Al Madhkhouri from Kuwait University's Faculty of Sharia, speaking at the opening celebration, said that Islam encouraged Muslims to spend their money on charitable organisations and projects to help the needy.

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KUWAIT ... GULF

Health Ministry's new rationalisation policy

Hospitals suffer from medicine shortage

A NUMBER of officials at hospitals and health centres have said there was a shortage of medicines after implementation of the rationalisation policy at the Health Ministry. They said that cutting of the budget, especially for treatment, had negatively affected the amount of medicine available.

They also said that the health registration system had not yet been implemented at the ministry, and this enabled people to take the same medicine from more than one centre. This was done by a large number of patients.

Health Ministry doctors said that patients were asked to go to private pharmacies to buy medicines that were not available at government pharmacies. They said that antibiotics and other prescribed medicines were distributed to hospitals in small amounts and supplies were exhausted quickly.

Pharmacists said that medical stores suffered from a shortage of some medicines, and pharmacies

could not order larger quantities of medicine although the amount available was exhausted before fresh supplies were provided.

The director of Jahra Hospital, Dr Abdul Raouq Al Jawhari, said a shortage of medicine was found after the end of each year.

He said that many patients kept visiting health complexes and clinics and took vast amounts of medicine. This was a good proof of lack of health awareness, some patients thinking they should collect the largest possible amount of medicine because there was no charge.

This was unfair to other patients and caused a shortage in some medicines.

Dr Al Jawhari said the solution was to increase health awareness with the participation of other authorities and departments, and also to restore the health registration system.

He said that changing patients for medicine was the only way to stop them collecting more amounts of medicines.

He called on the ministry to give clinic doctors complete freedom with regard to medicines. Sometimes doctors have to prescribe substitute medicines and this is the right thing to do because the medicines have the same effect.

Dealing with many pharmaceutical companies resulted in a bigger variety of medicines, he said.

The director of Iba Sina Hospital, Dr Rashed Hamad Al Roshoud, said that shortage of medicines, especially at hospitals, would affect health services negatively, especially in the case of patients with serious illnesses.

There is a heavier demand for medicine before the summer vacation because travellers want to obtain sufficient medicine to last the whole holiday, especially for dangerous illnesses.

He said that the hospital obtained the medicines of many international companies and they had different brand names for the same medicine and this confused some patients who

thought they were being given different medicines.

He urged patients not to restrict themselves to a specific medicine because it may not be available sometimes and manufacturers were changing continuously.

Halved

The deputy director of external services, Dr Jamal Othman, said each health centre was given sufficient medicine for two weeks, but had the right to ask for a different quantity. Some doctors prescribed one type of medicine, causing the supply to be exhausted quicker.

He said the quantities distributed by the medical stores department depended on the area's population and the number of daily patients. Smaller quantities of some medicines were distributed, in line with the ministry's rationalisation policy.

Formerly patients with serious illnesses were given medicines sufficient for three months, but they are now given sufficient medicine for one month only.

A pharmacist, Mohammed Salah, said that the distribution of medicines had been halved, and pharmacies were now suffering from a shortage in medicines.

He said that nobody can deny this, and something should be done to remedy the situation.

The assistant undersecretary for administrative affairs at the Health Ministry, Ibrahim Al Modaf, admitted there was a shortage in the strategic storage of medicines due to the ministry's new rationalisation policy.

He said the ministry had requested the Finance Ministry to allocate an additional amount to cover the shortage and it had responded positively.

He said the ministry was very careful when choosing strong medicines and medicines for heart, diabetes and hormone diseases. It also took care to ensure that such medicines needed for particular illnesses were given under direct medical supervision, he said.

The manager of a patisserie

said the sale of his products had risen by 100 per cent during the season.

"We are active during this time of year, remaining open for 24 hours a day to cater to the needs of people, specially foreigners", he said.

Soared

A housewife, said that prices soared at this time of the year because shopkeepers were tempted to increase their profits by raising prices. She said that prices had increased every year for the past five years.

The price of postcards has gone up by 50 per cent and clothes by 100 per cent, and even patisserie shops raised their prices, she said, adding, it was very difficult for her to afford such prices in Salmiya during this season and bought her needs one month in advance. A decoration cost KD 2 in Salmiya but the same item was only 50 fils in the city, she said.

Rush

An expatriate who has been in Kuwait for eight years said toy prices had hit a record.

In Salmiya, toy costs double than in cooperative supermarkets, she said. Cards and decorations were also much cheaper in supermarkets.

Thousands throng the church

By Lima Al Khalafawi

THOUSANDS of Christians thronged the church yesterday to celebrate Christmas.

The festive mood of the people was evident from the colourful clothes and latest fashions they wore.

Generosity is the spirit of this holiday season and exchanging gifts is common. Toyshops, confectionery shops and bookshops were full of people buying gifts during the last week. Purchases have been affected by the increase in prices, according to some people.

The manager of a patisserie said the sale of his products had risen by 100 per cent during the season. "We are active during this time of year, remaining open for 24 hours a day to cater to the needs of people, specially foreigners", he said.

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A parcel clerk at Hawalli post office said there had been a rush of people sending cards and parcels before the New Year.

Saudi princess dies of burns

BALTIMORE, Dec 25, (AP): Saudi Arabian Princess Shoa Al Farhan, a cousin of the late King Faisal, has died a month after being admitted to the Baltimore Regional Burn Centre with burns to 96 per cent of her body.

The 43-year-old princess was admitted Nov 25 to the unit at Francis Scott Key Medical Centre with 93 per cent of her body covered in third-degree burns and another 3 per cent covered in second-degree burns, said spokesman Lee Kennedy.

She initially had been treated in her native country for the burns suffered in a house fire in Riyadh.

She died at 11.15 pm. Thursday (0415 GMT Friday) of infection stemming from the burns, Kennedy said. She had been conscious, but in critical condition, during treatment, Kennedy said.

Her husband and eldest son had been to visit her earlier in the week.

She was brought to the area by private jet because she had a brother nearby in northern Virginia, Kennedy said.

Research on manpower

A RESEARCH on manpower will be conducted during March on a sample basis, the assistant undersecretary for statistics at the Planning Ministry, Masaad Al Omaim, said on Thursday.

He said that the research was of great social and economic value in estimating the population of citizens and expatriates in the light of the 1985-90 five year plan.

Interior Ministry's new projects

amount had been approved for 1987 to 1988.

He said that among the projects planned were the Al Rabia, Al Fintas and Al Qurain Police Stations. The director added that the new ministry had progressed well in spite of some problems. He said that the new police society building will be located near the Sixth Ring Road and the Capital Governorate building.

RAINBOW
Full Cream Evaporated Milk

So rich...
so smooth...
so creamy.

The rich taste of pure quality

REQUIRED

Kuwait's leading Motor Distributors require for their Passenger Car division the following personnel:

1. SERVICE RECEPTION ENGINEERS

Sound technical knowledge of passenger car & light-heavy commercial vehicles. To act as liaison between service customers and garage to promote labour and parts sales. A minimum of 4 years apprenticeship in a reputed service garage is essential.

2. MANAGER PANEL & PAINT SHOP

To manage and operate fully equipped large panel & paint shop. Should be a talented professional who will thrive in a fast paced dynamic environment. Will be responsible to increase retail customer business for panel & paint shop, and co-ordinate with insurance companies to increase insurance paid accident repair work. Must be profit motivated and able to develop good customer relations and knowledge of normal administration including independent office routine, cost control and preparation of budgets essential.

The above positions require fluency in Arabic and English with a minimum of three years post-apprenticeship experience in similar capacity with major vehicle importers in the Gulf region and transferable residence permits.

Applications in writing only may be addressed to:

The Personnel Manager,
P.O. Box 24047,
13101 Safat Kuwait.

Oman-Jordan seek to boost ties

AMMAN, Dec 25, (Kuna): Jordan's Minister of Industry and Trade Raja' Al Ma'shar received yesterday Oman's ambassador here Bashir Bin Salim Bin Farag who delivered to him a message from Oman's Minister of Commerce and Industry Salim Bin Abdullah Al Ghazali, dealing with the joint Omani-Jordanian committee.

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

YOU must be poor to know the luxury of giving —
George Eliot, English novelist (1819-1880).

Italy breaks arms ring

By Stephen R. Wilson

ROME, (AP): Italian magistrates say they have broken an illegal international arms ring that delivered Italian mines to Iran and involved Sicilian Mafia and European middlemen.

At least 32 people, including a leading Italian industrialist, were arrested over the weekend in what Italian media have dubbed 'Italy's Iranagate scandal.' No government officials have been implicated.

Thirteen other people, including a mysterious arms trader who left a briefcase full of incriminating documents in a hotel room, are still being sought.

Authorities say the affair, which one newspaper reported involved a plot to assassinate US President Ronald Reagan in Venice last June, will have wide repercussions throughout Europe.

"Our work is only at the beginning," prosecutor Augusto Lama said. "We are investigating along several directions. We will turn half of Europe upside down."

According to Lama and other investigating magistrates, the operation involved delivery of mines from Italy to Iran via Syria, and the shipment of drugs and weapons to Italy for use by the Mafia and Middle East gunmen.

Italian military sales to Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya and other countries are banned.

The affair comes at a time when Italy is preparing to send Navy ships to the Gulf to escort Italian merchant vessels and hunt mines allegedly planted by Iran.

Details of the operation began emerging after the seizure of a Lebanese cargo ship, *Boustany 1*, off the coast of Bari in southern Italy.

Police said the vessel was carrying an American-made anti-helicopter missile, a Soviet-made grenade launcher, an anti-tank bazooka, as well as two kilograms (4.4 pounds) of heroin.

According to the magistrates, the mines were later forwarded to Iran.

Suharto guarantees Army political role

By Jeremy Cliff

JAKARTA, (Reuter): President Suharto has guaranteed the Army a political role in Indonesia for the foreseeable future, asserting that the participation of the military will not hinder his plans to build democracy.

Mapping out his strategy for the political and economic development of the world's fifth largest nation, Suharto said the armed forces were essential for forging a strong and united country.

Marking the 42nd anniversary of the declaration of independence from Dutch rule after World War II, Suharto said he had succeeded in laying the ideological and political foundation for the future.

With the period neatly dividing into 21 years under the charismatic late President Sukarno, and 21 years under the more pragmatic rule of Suharto, the anniversary is raising questions about the future leadership of the country as a new generation takes over.

Suharto, himself a retired general, said the military was a key element in ensuring stability and building a unified ideology in an archipelago which spans 13,000 islands.

At 66, Suharto appears in good health and has expressed his intention to stand for a fifth five-year term as president next March.

But the jockeying for position has already started for the new cabinet as the president will announce in seven months' time.

Indonesia, a country of 170 million people, has adopted a low-profile foreign policy under Suharto, in direct contrast to the flamboyant militancy of Suharto.

But its strategic position commanding the sea lanes between the Indian and Pacific Oceans, along with its large natural resources which include oil, gas, rubber, tin, timber and palm oil, make it an important country.

America has made some amends for its past mistakes

US-Arab relations better, despite hiccups

By Raphael Callis

WASHINGTON, (Kuna): Despite occasional hiccups, there is a clear and steady warming trend in the relationship between Washington and the Arab world. Whether this trend continues depends as much on the Arab world and developments there as it does on the United States.

The unexpected can always thwart good intentions in the Middle East. But the latest resumption of the so-called tanker war in the Gulf is not expected to have a lasting negative effect on the overall improved relationship.

Within the span of less than a year, the Reagan administration has:

- Responded positively to an unprecedented Kuwaiti request and has sent an armada to the Arabian Gulf region to protect US interests, Kuwaiti shipping, and the international waterways of the Gulf along with other countries from both East and West.
- Has just signed a major five-year trade agreement with Iraq.
- And has sent the US ambassador William Eagleton back to

Damascus after an absence of more than ten months.

That is a far cry from less than a year ago when the Iran-Contra affair broke out and sent shock waves across to America's close allies in the Arab world and, in the process, strengthened the hands of its opponents in the region and especially encouraged the Islamic fundamentalists to spread their wings across the Arab world as it was so tragically manifested in the Maktaba incidents.

Failures

The Iran-Contra scandal was simply the culmination of a series of American failures in the Middle East that included, among others, America's brief entry and quick and tragic exodus from Lebanon in 1982-83, a series of on-again-off again bids to solve the Arab-Israel conflict, a major aggression against Libya, and continued rejection to sell arms to strong US allies like Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The current trend must be viewed as a cause-effect relationship in the post Iran-Contra scandal. It is difficult to imagine that the recent moves would have taken place had Iranagate

not been so sensationalized.

After all, the argument in Washington goes, the US has responded positively and with resolve to Kuwait's request despite congressional objections, has sent more than 20 ships and over 25,000 men to the Gulf to protect vital Arab and Western interests aimed at securing the free flow of oil to the West and the principle of freedom of navigation in the international waters of the Gulf — at a cost of over a million dollars a day of the taxpayer's money.

Persuaded

And the administration's advocates justifyingly point out that despite initial hesitation, and under US prodding, Washington's European allies have been finally persuaded also to join in a multinational effort to protect this international waterway of the Gulf by sending more of their own ships, mine-sweepers, and men.

Furthermore, the Reagan administration — to its credit — has been actively and uncharacteristically involved diplomatically — so far with partial success — in finding a solution to the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war

under the auspices of the United Nations.

Once again, the US was able to turn around the positions of countries like West Germany, Britain, and France that had been opposed to the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 598, let alone succeeding in bringing about the unprecedented unanimity of other council members like the Soviet Union and China.

Have all these measures not been part of the Arab objectives in the current exercise, the administration's advocates in Washington ask?

Questions

The answers to these and other questions are unfortunate, if not that straightforward — like anything else in the Middle East. Because still lurking in the skeptical Arab mind are several key questions, which only time and American actions will answer:

• First, the damage caused by the Iran-Contra affair goes much beyond the supply of arms to Iran, though this should never be underestimated.

A point unfortunately not stressed enough during the

months of painful congressional hearings on Iranagate is that the damage caused by the covert

— perhaps again acting under congressional pressure — commit the blunder of "squeezing" its allies in the Gulf region to grant it landing rights, bases, and facilities under the threat of pulling out — a request that is bound to be turned down for domestic and regional considerations which the administration should be very much aware of.

Or, additionally, will it seize the current opportunity and presence in the Gulf to maintain its naval forces in the region permanently, eventually inviting the wrath of Arab moderates and hardliners alike? Or will it withdraw once a comprehensive settlement of the Iranian conflict has been reached and in the process preempt a possible superpower confrontation?

• Fifth, will the United States once again allow itself to be outmaneuvered by Iran (as it was in the arms scandal) or be bullied around by Iranian threats of sabotage, kidnappings, and terrorism or will it stand firm in pursuit of its vital regional and international interests, principles, and dedicated commitments no matter what the cost?

Kabul seen in no-win situation in Khost siege

By Oliver Wates

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, (Reuter): The siege of Khost by anti-communist rebels, perhaps the biggest military operation in Afghanistan this year, leaves the Soviet-backed government with some difficult choices.

To breach the blockade of the town, government forces must forge a path through some 80 km (50 miles) of terrain held by the guerrillas for more than eight years and ideal for ambush.

Afghan analysts and Western diplomats in neighbouring Pakistan say the cost is high. The alternative is to be cut off by the rebels.

Western diplomats say the rebels are beginning their push long before.

The high priority Kabul gave the operation was underlined by the presence as commander of Army Chief-of-State Shah Nawaz Tanai, a native of the Khost region.

Western diplomats said Army, Interior Ministry troops and even secret police units massed outside Gardze, provincial capital of Paktia province.

The force then set off down the main road to Khost and a few days after the Soviet announcement had made some progress.

According to rebel reports, it crossed the Sata Kandao Pass

through snow-capped mountains 10-12 km (six-eight miles) from Gardze.

The prospect for the government force remains daunting according to professor Syed Bahandir Majrooh, who runs a news service on the nine-year-old war.

The road, believed to be minimally maintained by the rebels, runs down a long thin valley, narrowing to a gorge, with 12 side valleys off it.

The Jadrani tribe living in the area has controlled the road since the Soviet military intervention of 1979. The main guerrilla group facing the advancing troops is led by Jalaluddin Haqqani, one of the best-known "mujahideen" commanders and himself a Jadrani.

Easy

The proximity of Pakistan makes it easy for rebels to bring up supplies and reinforcements. At the weekend, Haqqani urged other guerrilla groups to join the siege and according to Majrooh soon had more volunteers than he could handle.

Majrooh said there was no doubt that the Afghan and Soviet troops could reach Khost if they tried hard enough, through their superior military weight.

"They won't be able to keep the road open," he added. "Even if they reach Khost it won't be a victory for them."

Panamanian regime's credibility is nil

By Alina Guerrero

PANAMA CITY, Panama, (AP): After months of unrest, Panama's government hopes the Christmas season will bring steps toward normality. But government critics remain skeptical about offers of reconciliation.

President Eric Arturo Delvalle says he will announce details soon on the reopening of three closed newspapers, a weekly and two radio stations, and welcome back any opposition leaders who might have fled for fear of their safety.

But Guillermo Cochez, vice president of the opposition Christian Democratic Party, says: "No one believes one single word of Delvalle."

Says Pierre Leignadier, president of the chamber of commerce, industries and agriculture, "The government continues suffering in credibility."

Delvalle said last Wednesday he would announce details soon on the reopening of the news outlets and other steps to ease tensions that have been simmering for the past seven months. Government opponents have held massive demonstrations, and Panamanian banks, long a centre for foreign bank holdings, have lost some foreign deposits.

The power behind Delvalle's government, strongman Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, has yet to say if he supports Delvalle's plans to reduce tension.

Noriega's control of the government has been the target of critics and sometimes violent demonstrations since last June. The opposition is calling for the military, specifically Noriega, to move away from its control of the government and allow democratic reforms to take place.

Triggering the opposition demands were allegations of Noriega's involvement in illicit activities ranging from drug trafficking to vote fraud to assassination of political opponents.

Noriega, however, places the

blame for the unrest not on domestic issues, but on the United States which has played a powerful role here since Panamanian independence in 1903.

Noriega says he is in trouble

now because of his refusal to help

the US government in its fight

against Nicaragua's leftist government.

He said President Ronald Reagan's former National Security Adviser John Poindexter asked for his support against the Sandinistas.

"If only I'd said yes ... I would

not have had any problem," he said.

He did not say when his meeting with Poindexter took place.

It was the latest variation in

explaining the unrest since Col.

Roberto Diaz Herrera, recently

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1793 — French victory at Weissenburg forces allies to retreat across Rhine River.
- 1805 — Peace of Pressburg is signed between France and Austria.
- 1825 — Russian Army uprising is crushed.
- 1827 — Turkey's Sultan Mohamed II rejects right of allies to
- 1901 — Completion of Uganda railway from Mombassa to Lake Victoria.
- 1938 — Declaration of Peru against all foreign intervention is approved by pan-American conference.
- 1941 — US declares Manila an open city in the Philippines in World War II.
- 1961 — United Nations officials charge that Northern Rhodesia was aiding secessionist Congo province of Katanga in its fight against UN forces.
- 1962 — Eight refugees from deep inside East Germany escape to West Berlin by crashing bus through barriers at border checkpoint.
- 1971 — Sixteen US veterans of Vietnam war seize Statue of Liberty in New York harbour to dramatize their anti-war stand.
- 1974 — Soviet Union sends unmanned scientific station into earth orbit.
- 1977 — Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Egypt's President Anwar Sadat conclude meeting at Ismailia, Egypt, without agreeing on Middle East issues.
- 1986 — Argentina's President Raul Alfonsin signs into law a bill aimed at ending prosecution of human rights violations by former military government.

Problems faced by foreigners to become physicians in US

By Vira Lynn Jones

NEW YORK, (Reuter): At home in Kampuchea, Sidera Hun had nearly finished medical school. As a refugee in America, he may never become a doctor.

He is typical of the thousands of foreign-trained refugee physicians in New York who have left their families, their culture, and their careers.

"Many of the refugee physicians are very depressed and suffer low self-esteem due to the loss of their professional status," said Linda Grenis, coordinator of the health training programmes for the New York Association for New Americans, Inc. (Nyana), a non-profit group that helps steer refugee doctors and medical students into suitable jobs in this country.

"We tell them not to make becoming a physician their only goal. Many of them are not aware of the difficulties they face in becoming physicians here," she said.

John Onyango, a fictitious name used by one man to protect his family, had a privileged life in Uganda. His father was a high-ranking official in Idi Amin's government.

"I was completing my medical studies in Pakistan when I received news that Amin had been ousted, my father went into exile and many of my relatives were killed," said Onyango.

Nyana helped him qualify for a two-year training programme as a respiratory therapist, treating people with lung diseases.

"It's an opportunity to stay in the medical field," he said. "It's better than having to take an unskilled job."

Stories abound about refugee physicians who drive taxis or wash dishes while struggling to learn English and meet medical standards. Some abandon their careers in frustration.

The situation is an ironic change from the 1950s. From then until about a decade ago, US immigration laws favoured foreign-trained doctors to offset a shortage of physicians.

"A hospital wanted my friend so desperately that they agreed to pay his airfare to the US," telling him he could repay it later, said Dr Narendra Patel, director of the emergency room at the Interfaith Hospital in New York.

Trained in India, Patel immigrated to the United States in the early 1970s and met US certification requirements with

relative ease. But the trend, he said, has changed radically.

Now there is a surge of US-trained doctors and training abroad — especially in the Third World — is increasingly regarded as inadequate, foreign doctors say.

Many foreign-trained physicians argue that the bias is embedded in the first hurdle for licensing, the foreign medical examination in medical science, which they claim is much harder than the US exam US graduates take.

Often even those who manage to pass the rigorous test — usually after several attempts — still cannot get into a residency training programme, a requirement for certification.

Hospitals in New York and elsewhere are under pressure to keep the numbers of foreign-trained physicians low so as not to lose federal funding for resident trainees who are relied on to do much of a hospital's daily work.

Patel said: "A residency programme with 90 per cent FMGs (Foreign Medical Graduates) is considered inferior while a programme with 100 per cent domestic graduates is considered very good."

Even refugee physicians who are placed in

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Bahrain Modern Art Show An exhibition of Bahrain's modern art opens today at 5 pm at the Dahiya Abdullah Al Salem Gallery. It will be open daily, until Dec 28, from 9 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm.

FILMS

Indian Film Festival Ramesh Sharma's political film *New Delhi Times* will be shown tonight at 7.30 pm at the auditorium of Kuwait's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The film stars Shashi Kapoor and Sharmila Tagore. Children are not admitted. For further details contact the Cine Club, near Indian Embassy, Bneid Al Qar.

SOCIAL

ASK Alumni Dinner Friends and graduates of the American School, Kuwait, will hold an alumni dinner at Regency Palace Hotel on Jan 3. The Arabic buffet will begin at 8 pm. For details phone Mrs Suzy Jones — 5314568.

ACT Auditions for ACT's next production "An Evening of Absurdity" will be held on Dec 28 (Monday) and Dec 30 (Wednesday) from 7 to 9 pm. For further details and location call 5620332; 5725071.

HOTELS

At the Ramada Al Salam Special children's brunch parties will be held every Friday from January 1 in El Bendar. Lots of fun and games will be provided from 12 noon to 3 pm.

At the Holiday Inn Pastries, stollen and logs for the festive season and New Year are available at the Lobby Lounge. Lunch featuring seasonal food will be offered at the Coffee Shop, Al Dana and Al Andalus. For details contact the hotel.

At the Sheraton Al Hamra features a special buffet lunch this week. Hunt Room will offer lunch and dinner buffet and a la carte; music by the Paradise Trio. A selection of set menus will be offered for dinner. Le Tarboche features special lunch and dinner buffets.

At the Meridian Special lunch and dinner menus will be offered this week at all the outlets. *Le Verrerie*, La Brasserie and a Tony's Jam session will be held on Thursday. Friday brunch features a special menu, lots of fun and games for all the family.

All entries for the What's On Column can be telexed (22332) to Events Section, or hand delivered daily, except Thursday, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned entries will not be accepted.

PRAYERS

Fajr 5.15 am
Zuhar 11.48
Asr 2.38 pm
Magrib 4.56
Isha 6.19

Al Andalus
Rage of Honour
Starring: Jerry Gabon.

Al Salmiya
Little Shop of Horrors
Starring: Bill Murray, Ellen Green.

Al Hamra
Hands of Steel
Starring: Daniel Green, Janette.

Drive-In
Wa Yabqa Al Hub (Arabic)
Starring: Farid Shawki, Subair Ramzi, Fuad Bakshi, Aziz.

Al Firdous
Mirch Masala (Hindi)
Starring: Smita Patil, Nasreuddin Shah, Raj Babbar.

Fahsheel Open-Air
Deewangi (Hindi)
Al-Fahsheel
Amritam Gamaya (Malayalam).

Al Jabra
Suicide Force
Granda Flood

Salahibkhat
Al Fatimah Al Maqalat (Arabic)
Al Jeeb
Nee Allenkil Jaan (Malayalam).

Almadi Drive-In
Running Scared

TV CORNER

Labour pains of Maggie Gioberti

IN an emotionally gripping shocker on Falcon Crest, Susan Sullivan's character, Maggie Gioberti, will give birth prematurely in the living room of the Falcon Crest mansion.

Susan Sullivan, who's never had a baby in real life, was determined to make the scene realistic — so she was coached by star Jane Wyman and a midwife.

Susan became so involved in the acting of the childbirth scene that she started to hyperventilate.

During the scene rehearsal, Jane Wyman stepped right in and advised Susan on the various stages of childbirth from her own experience as a mother.

This scene will be shown in a forthcoming episode of Falcon Crest, now being shown on KTV 2 on Wednesday nights.

Friday's programme on KTV 2 has not been listed, as a new schedule will be announced for 1988.



Maggie is put on the couch.



A scene from the Arabic film, Ah! Ya Belad, Ah!

KTV 1 weekly highlights

SUNDAY

4.25 **La Ilaha Illallah**: historical serial. Starring: Yusuf Shabaaan, Hala Fakher. 10.50 **Dairat Al Abdath**: Kamil Abdul Jalil discusses "Accidents and Traffic Problems." Guests are brig. Fuad Mussed Al Saleh, Abdul Wahab Rashed, Haron, Sabah Mohammad Amir Al Rayyes. Hosted by Kamel Sulaiman Abdul Jalil.

MONDAY

3.30 **Hakim Al Aqzam**: cartoon serial. 5.30 **Mama Anisa and Children**: a weekly show for young viewers.

7.30 **Quran and Science**: hosted by Dr Ahmad Shawki Ibrahim. 9.50 **Ghaddan Tadaq Al Ajras**: daily serial, starring Salah Saadani, Hina Tharwath, Mohammad Al Arabi.

10.50 **Zaat Al Mas'as**: Arabic play written by Shaker Ma'touk, directed by Abdul Aziz Al Mansour.

TUESDAY

5.30 **Al Manahal**: an educational programme for young viewers, teaching Arabic language. Ahmad Qarwadi, Amal Al Dabbas and Tayseer Attiya appear in this half-hour show.

9.50 **Ghaddan Tadaq Al Ajras**: last episode of daily Arabic serial.

10.50 **Bidoun Montage**: a local show hosted by Mubarak Al Ameri.

WEDNESDAY

7.05 **With Students**: a weekly programme quiz show presented by the Minis-

THURSDAY

9.40 **The World of Disney**: English feature film for children.

11.00 **Open University**
12.00 **Man and Islam**: new religious programme presented by Dr Abdul Shahin.

7.30 **Rahlat Fi Al Majnoon**: Arabic serial starring Samir Ghannan and Isaaq Yunus.

10.00 **Ah! Ya Belad, Ah!**: Arabic feature film, starring Hussein Fahmi, Laila Alwi, Anwar Ismael. A man returns to his village to sell the ancestral property and encounters opposition from the villain...

FRIDAY

10.20 **Children's Magazine**: a programme for young viewers.

12.15 **Min Wabi Ayyat Wal Bayanat**: religious serial.

3.15 **Football**: Kuwait vs Qatar for 1988 Olympic Games. Live broadcast from Sabah Al Salem Stadium.

9.50 **Hilm Al Hamish**: Arabic play starring Sana Abdul Rahman, Mohammad Hussein Abdul Raheem, Asia Kamal. Produced by Iraqi television.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait Al Hafez Pharmacy
Salah Al Din St.
Al Amal Pharmacy
Mubarak Al Kabir St.
Hawalli and Nigra
Al Sabah Pharmacy
Othman St.

Almadi Drive-In
Running Scared



Angela takes charge as Maggie falls in the foyer of the Falcon Crest mansion.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

2.15 **Holy Quran**
2.25 **World News Via Satellite**

3.20 **Hakim Al Aqzam**: cartoon serial

4.00 **News Summary**

4.05 **Magazine D'Actualite**

4.25 **La Ilaha Illallah**: historical serial. Starring: Abdullah Al Ghairi, Imaan Togi, Ahmad Abdul Aziz, Ahmad Badr.

5.30 **Al Manahal**: programme for children

6.00 **Rahlat Istakhsiyah**: "Expeditions." Educational.

7.00 **News Summary**

7.05 **Noor Al Islam**: "The Rights of Man in Islam." Guests are Dr Ismael Ibrahim Badawi and Dr Mustafa Mohammad Arjawi. Hosted by Ahmed Abdul Qadir.

7.30 **Nazrat Al Al Alam**: documentary

7.45 **Good Evening and Local News**

9.00 **News in English**

10.05 **Ghaddan Tadaq Al Ajras**: daily serial featuring Salah Saadani, Hina Tharwath, Mohammad Al Arabi

11.00 **Variety Show**

11.30 **News Summary**

11.40 **World News via Satellite**

12.25 **Holy Quran/Closedown**



The episode of Snow Queen continues as Hunter chases the runaway girl, tonight at 9.40 pm on KTV 2.

10.30 **Made-for-TV Movie: Isabel's Choice**: Starring Jean Stapleton, Richard Kiley, Peter Coyote, Betsy Palmer. A lonely executive secretary in a large corporation becomes disenchanted with her work, despite the chance to advance. Ambitious co-worker and nagging mother step in to complicate matters.

12.00 **News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite**: Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

KTV 2

6.00 **Holy Quran**

6.10 **Thundercats**: "Retu-

10.00 **Cine Club**: "The Island of Terror." Medical experts journey to an island where they discover shell-like creatures that show a penchant for devouring the bones of victims. Well-done science fiction thriller. Starring: Richard Widmark.

10.30 **Best-Seller**: "The Fight Against Slavery." Part 3. In 1791, rebellion spreads in the West Indies. In 1832, Daddy Sharp leads a march against slavery and is hanged. Another rebel leader Reverend William Knibb is deported to England. Public opinion sways as the movements to abolish slavery gathers momentum.

12.00 **News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown**

10.00 **Network 23** is at "War", Max Headroom, Thursdays.

10.00 **Cine Club**: "The Island of Terror." Medical experts journey to an island where they discover shell-like creatures that show a penchant for devouring the bones of victims. Well-done science fiction thriller. Starring: Richard Widmark.

10.30 **Best-Seller**: "The Fight Against Slavery." Part 3. In 1791, rebellion spreads in the West Indies. In 1832, Daddy Sharp leads a march against slavery and is hanged. Another rebel leader Reverend William Knibb is deported to England. Public opinion sways as the movements to abolish slavery gathers momentum.

12.00 **News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown**

10.00 **Wednesday**

6.00 **Holy Quran**

6.10 **Mickey and Donald**: cartoons

6.30 **Charles in Charge**: "Please from Grandma." Charles learns a great deal from Grandma who is visiting the family.

7.00 **Natural World**: "Where Parrots Speak Mandarin." This episode deals with the man-animal relationship in China.

8.00 **News in English**

8.40 **The Outlaws**: "Birth-day." The outlaws celebrate a friend's birthday.

9.30 **The World We Live In**: "The Riddle of Heredity." Research on genetic diseases and puzzles.

10.00 **Sledge Hammer**: "The Old Man and Sledge." Sledge finds a job for an old man who gets into trouble after thieves break in at the show where he works.

10.30 **Falcon Crest**: "A Piece of Work." Richard Channing takes over distribution of wine; Maggie waits for her baby and Angela has a new trick up her sleeve.

12.00 **News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown**

10.00 **TUESDAY**

6.00 **Holy Quran**

6.10 **Volttron**: cartoons

6.30 **The Electric Company**

7.00 **Fairy Tale Theatre**

8.00 **News in English**

8.40 **Max Headroom**

9.30 **P.M. Magazine**: "Animals." A look at sports goods ranging from surfing equipment, sledges, rowing, racing and motorcycling.

10.30 **Late Night Movie**: a musician and his wife find a dead body in their house and are implicated in the crime.

12.00 **News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown**

10.00 **THURSDAY**

6.00 **Holy Quran**

6.10 **Volttron**: cartoons

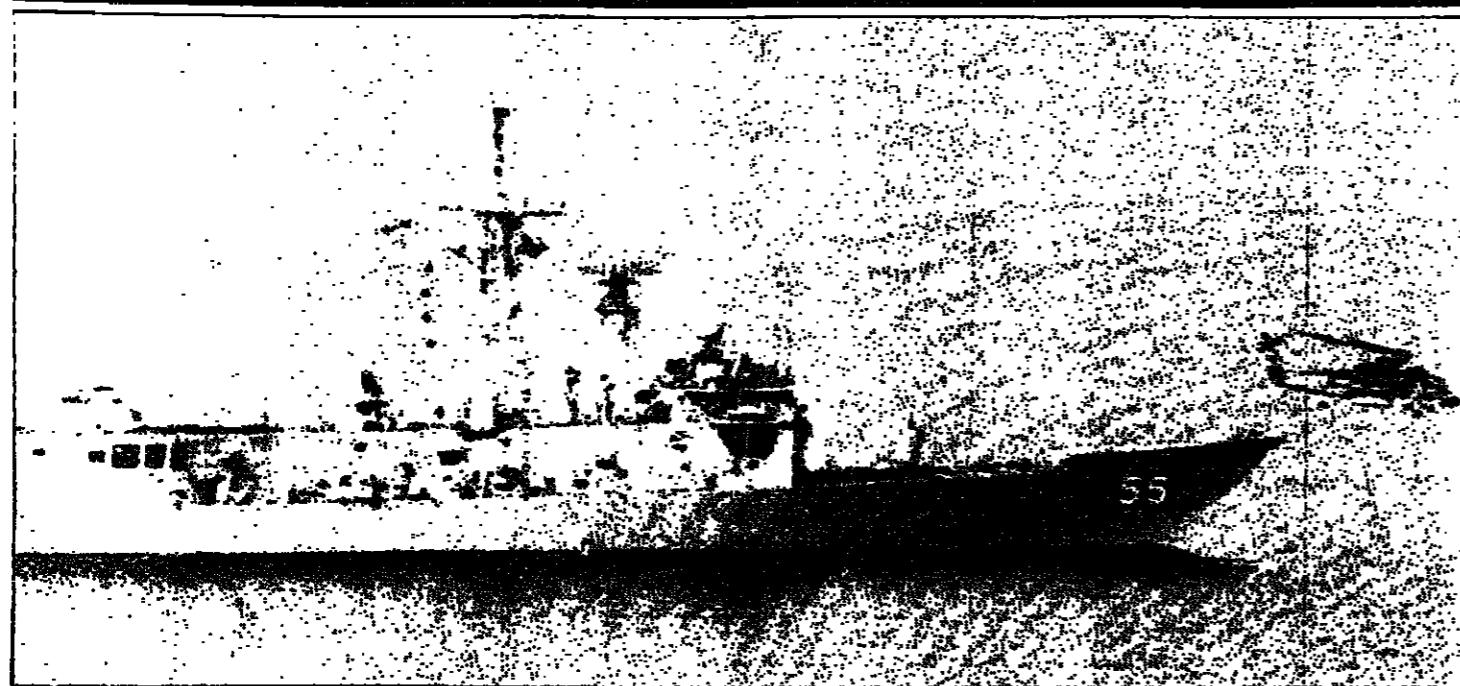
6.30 **The Electric Company**

7.00 **Fairy Tale Theatre**

8.00 **News in English**

8.40 **Max Headroom**

9.30 **P.M. Magazine**: "Animals." A look at sports goods ranging from surfing equipment, sled



A FILE picture of the US frigate "Elrod" with its helicopter hovering at the front in the southern Gulf last month. Five Iranian speedboats opened up fire with machine guns at the helicopter in the same region on Thursday but the shots went wide, a US Navy spokesman said. (Reuter radiophoto)



INDIAN Minister for External Affairs Natwar Singh (right) greets the President of Afghanistan Dr Sayid Najibullah on Thursday during a one-day stopover visit in New Delhi. (Reuter radiophoto)



A NEWLY-ARRIVED Vietnamese refugee happily eats his first ever Christmas gift, a lollipop, while waiting out a two-week period of quarantine in Hong Kong's "closed" Chi-Ma Wan refugee camp on Wednesday. (Reuter radiophoto)



A DUTCH youth of Italian origin, believed to be Alessandro Scioni, between 15 and 18 years old, (pictured left) is led away by a plainclothes policeman in Rome on Wednesday, after he surrendered following his hijacking of a Dutch KLM Boeing 737, with 91 passengers on board and six crew members, in which he ordered the pilot to fly to Rome. Above, Italian police watch unidentified passengers of the hijacked plane after they were released unharmed Wednesday night. (Reuter radiophoto)



KENIA RODRIGUEZ MARTINEZ, age 6, who lost both her feet when a Contra mortar hit her house during an attack on Siuna last Sunday, waits on an air strip in northeastern Nicaragua to be airlifted to a hospital in Managua. She was one of the hundreds of victims of the two days of fighting when US backed Contras attacked the towns of Siuna, Rosita, and Bonanza, 160 miles northeast of Managua. (Reuter radiophoto)



MARIE-JOSÉE HELLEC (right) and her daughter Sarah (left) play together at their arrival at Paris Orly airport on Thursday. Hellec is one of the nine French mothers who flew to Algiers on Tuesday to ask the help of Algerian authorities in bringing back their children held by Algerian fathers. (Reuter radiophoto)



JOELLE KAUFFMANN, wife of kidnapped French journalist Jean Paul Kauffmann, speaks to journalists as she sits next to a Christmas tree at a west Beirut hotel lobby on Thursday. Kauffmann arrived in Beirut to spend Christmas Eve near her husband held captive by the pro-Iranian Islamic Jihad organisation for more than two years. (Reuter radiophoto)



ILLUSIONISTS Siegfried and Roy show off three white tiger cubs, born several days ago, at their home in Las Vegas. The tigers, one male and two females, were born to the performers' rare white tiger. (Reuter radiophoto)



TAIWAN President Chiang Ching Kuo is wheeled into the National Assembly yesterday where he was screamed down by opposition deputies demanding full elections of parliament. (Reuter radiophoto)



A CHILD watches a snowman candle flicker on Christmas Eve in Helsinki, Finland. (Reuter radiophoto)

A guide to the study of spies



Sean Connery as spy James Bond 007. Talented writers and filmmakers have developed and broadened the appeal of the spy story.

By Jane Stewart Spitzer

THE immense popularity and proliferation of the spy story is a 20th-century phenomenon. Although espionage is often referred to as the second-oldest profession, and it plays a part in such early literature as "The Iliad," "The Odyssey," and the Bible, according to the authors of *The Spy Story* (University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 259 pp., \$22.50), "It was not until the 20th century that the secret agent became the hero/protagonist of a major form of popular narrative."

In their fascinating study of the spy story, which they define as "a story whose protagonist has some primary connection with espionage," John G. Cawelti, professor of English at the University of Kentucky, and Bruce A. Rosenberg, professor of American civilization and English at Brown University, provide several reasons for its flourishing: First, the clandestine quality, with its accompanying fantasies of invisibility, disguise, and secret exercise of power, appeals strongly to the imagination. Second, the increasing importance of international espionage, caused by two world wars, the rise of totalitarian governments, the cold war, and the fear of nuclear catastrophe, has made spy and clandestine activity the "central symbols of the human condition in the 20th century."

People feel a sense of ambiguity about their place in society and a sense of alienation from the large organizations in their lives that enable them to identify with the spy "out in the cold." And fourth, talented writers and filmmakers have developed and broadened the appeal of the spy story.

Inspired
The first spy novel, "The Spy" was written by an American, James Fenimore Cooper, and published in 1821. Set during the American Revolution, it was probably inspired by the capture and execution of a British spy, Maj. John Andre. It was the British, however, who were responsible for the significant development of the spy novel.

In late 19th-century Britain, a growing fear of anarchism and foreign invasion helped spur the growing popularity of espionage adventure stories, which were inspired by the colonial adventures of H. Rider Haggard and Rudyard Kipling. Kipling's "Kim," published in 1902, combined colonial adventure with espionage. In 1903, Erskine Childers's "Riddle of the Sands," in which two young British gentlemen expose a German invasion plot, launched the modern spy story. The first spy-story classic, John Buchan's "The Thirty-Nine Steps," was published in 1913. Alfred Hitchcock made Buchan's novel into a spy-film classic in 1939.

Cawelti and Rosenberg devote individual chapters to the five major figures in the history

of the spy novel. Buchan perfected the heroic spy story by combining the traditions of adventure fiction with international espionage. During the 1930s, Eric Ambler and Graham Greene introduced a new kind of spy story, in which ordinary people became caught up in international conspiracies. Ian Fleming revived the heroic spy story and added a strong dose of irony with the 1953 publication of his first James Bond novel, "Casino Royale." John le Carré introduced the most recent school of spy fiction, in which loyalty, betrayal, and double agency are stressed, with the publication in 1961 of his first novel, "Call for the Dead."

The five major figures in the history of the spy novel — Buchan, Ambler, Greene, Fleming, and le Carré — are all British. Most of the 20 names on Cawelti and Rosenberg's list of "The Best Spy Writers" (included in their 24-page chapter, "Guide to the Spy Story") are British. The only woman on the list, and one of the very few women in the field, is Helen MacInnes, an American born in Britain. Yet Cawelti and Rosenberg do not examine the reasons for or even mention the decidedly masculine and British influence on the spy story.

Waning

British domination of the field may be waning, however. American writers are well represented in the current crop of spy novels. David Quammen's *The Soul of Viktor Tronko* (Doubleday, New York, \$17.95), offers a variation on the theme of the amateur caught up in the world of espionage, while William L. DeAndrea's *Azrael* (Mysterious Press, New York, \$15.95), is the third novel in his series about a professional spy. The British are represented by *For the Good of the State* (Mysterious Press, New York, \$16.95), by Anthony Prince, whose novels are the basis for "Chessgame," a British television series, and the *Seeds of Treason* (Mysterious Press, \$15.95), by Ted Albeury, who is on Cawelti and Rosenberg's list of the best spy writers.

Spy fiction has long been regarded as part of the mystery-suspense genre. Whole chapters in both the first edition of Dilys Winn's *Murder Ink* (Workman Publishing, New York, 1977) and Julian Symon's study of crime fiction, *Bloody Murder* (Viking, New York, 1985), are devoted to spy fiction. However, several recent studies have been devoted exclusively to spy fiction. These include *The British Spy Novel*, by John Atkins (John Calder, London, 1984). The Novels of John le Carré, by David Monaghan (Basil Blackwell, Oxford, 1985), and now, "The Spy Story." As spy fiction becomes more popular and prolific, it may eventually be recognized as a separate genre.

1987, The Christian Science Monitor.

What Israeli schoolchildren are taught about Arabs

By Magda Abu Fadil

THROUGH the mouths of babes one may hear surprising gems of disjointed conversation. Through the minds of children pass endless thoughts shaped by adult frames of reference and reinforced over time by biases and their own prejudices. Authors of academic texts or children's literature may use poetic licence to stereotype groups whose background or politics they find distasteful. The ultimate victims, undoubtedly, are the readers or students whose ideas are moulded at a tender age.

A case in point — or rather an entire study — is Fouzi El Asmar's Ph.D. dissertation published as a scholarly document is a concise compendium of examples from noted Hebrew authors in Israel whose driving force is to create a distorted image of Palestinians in particular, and Arabs in general. Rarely is armed conflict between Arabs and Jews characterised except as clashes with "gangs and robbers", "indicted mobs", "infiltrators" or "saboteurs".

In the light of the current uprising by the youth of Palestine, and the brutal attempts to control it by young Israeli soldiers, the author's expose assumes a timely poignancy.

Jewish homeland to (among others) Rabbi Yehuda Alkali, who urged rich European Jews to contribute toward the creation of Jewish colonies in the Holy Land as early as 1834.

A common thread among Zionist authors and advocates of settlement at the time was the perpetuation of the notion that Jewish settlers would "return" to a barren land devoid of inhabitants. Accordingly, El Asmar points to the celebrated phrase attributed to Israel Zangwill, a leading early British Zionist, who described Jews as "people without a land for a land without a people."

Political Zionism took shape in the late 1800s by trading on arguments that Jews were spiritually linked to Palestine, that Gentiles were inherently anti-Semitic, and that Zionism was

the ultimate saviour for Jews scattered around the world. The presence of Arabs in "Eretz Yisrael" (the land of Israel) subsequently came as a surprise to many early settlers. "One of the main issues obsessing the architects of the Zionist efforts in Palestine and especially leading thinkers of the Zionist left was the demographic question: how to create a Jewish majority in Palestine," writes El Asmar. Zionism became the prerequisite for a "Socialist" Jewish state.

Festering problems

From Theodor Herzl to the founders of Israel in the 1940s El Asmar chronicles accounts in which Jews are repeatedly told Arab leaders misguided their followers by urging them to evacuate towns and villages rather than fight armed Jewish settlers. He faults Israeli writers for ignoring countless instances of mass expulsions and the creation of a Palestinian Arab refugee problem.

Perhaps the very negation of a Palestinian population underlines how Jewish adults and children deal with a festering problem.

El Asmar quotes another memorable Zionist observation by former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir who stated in 1969 that "there was no such thing as Palestinians."

Turning specifically to Hebrew literature, the author notes how most references to Arabs become synonymous with "foreigners" — hence, Arabs do not belong on that contested land. "This 'foreignness' of the Arab is also utilised to prepare the ground for a deeper explanation, which says that the Arabs, since they are 'foreigners', came to the land in order to destroy it, and to kill and steal," he explains.

To justify their "return", Jewish writers such as Eliezer Semoli and Yigal Mosinson often purport to convey story characters of docile Arabs accepting Jewish claims to the land, or outright saboteurs, with whom there is little in common and whose presence is no longer acceptable. Resistance to settlements, expulsions and provocation by the Jews invariably led to armed attacks. Hebrew children's literature is rife with examples of Arab "gangs" and "mobs".

But Jewish writers did not paint all Arabs with a terrorist brush. On the positive side, those who disapproved of anti-Jewish activities were considered civilised. El Asmar quotes another memorable Zionist observation by former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir who stated in 1969 that "there was no such thing as Palestinians."

Through the Hebrew Looking-Glass: Arab Stereotypes in Children's Literature by Fouzi El Asmar Zed Books/AMANA Books, 1986.

also examines the very portrayal of Arabs in the literature he selected — invariably negative stereotypical representations. Arabs who steal and kill in Hebrew-language books, he notes, are plain criminals who must be punished. Their motives are considered irrelevant. In a chapter entitled "The Arab Character", El Asmar identifies the following stereotypes in children's books: the thieving Arab, the dirty Arab, the cursing Arab, the corrupt Arab and the Bedouins — all of whom have no rights to the land and represent a threat to the Jews.

Rarely is armed conflict between Arabs and Jews characterised except as clashes with "gangs and robbers", "infiltrators" or "saboteurs". On the other side, El Asmar writes, Israeli soldiers are usually portrayed as "supermen". Israeli superiority in Hebrew books. "These authors construct very serious obstacles to the development of any orientation or aspiration towards peace in the minds of their young readers", he argues.

Through the Hebrew Looking-Glass: Arab Stereotypes in Children's Literature by Fouzi El Asmar Zed Books/AMANA Books, 1986.

1988 The year of luxury



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T.M.I.

Year of the comeback in pop music

1987: when rock music turned middle-aged

By John Swenson

NEW YORK (UPI): In 1987 pop music looked in the mirror and saw a touch of grey.

Rock 'n' roll, the music that began as the exhilarating soundtrack to '50s and '60s youth, has inexorably gravitated toward middle age as its audience and its best-known practitioners push — and pass — the 40-year mark.

If there was one moment that symbolized rock 'n' roll in 1987, it was the jam session at the end of the second annual rock and roll hall of fame induction dinner in New York.

With Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Roy Orbison, Carl Perkins, Ben E. King and Smokey Robinson sharing the stage with Bruce Springsteen, Keith Richards, Sting and Daryl Hall, the average age of the most star-studded jam in rock history was closer to 50.

The past year has seen a host of aging rockers revive their careers after long layoffs. Robertson, who helped change the direction of popular music at the end of the '60s as part of the band, released an awesome solo debut after nearly a decade away from the studio.

The album's most moving track, "Fallen Angel," was dedicated to his friend and fellow band-mate Richard Manuel, who committed suicide last year.

George Harrison came out of retirement with "Cloud Nine," one of the strongest albums he's made since the breakup of the Beatles. "Got

My Mind Set On You," the sing-along hit from "Cloud Nine," was one of the year's best songs.

Grateful Dead guitarist Jerry Garcia, who suffered a near-fatal diabetic coma last year, rebounded dramatically. "In The Dark," the first new Grateful Dead recording in seven years, and the single "Touch of Grey" became the group's first top 10 album and single. The record is an eloquent coming to terms with aging and death, exemplified by "Touch Of Grey" and the eerie, mystical "Black Muddy River."

Comeback

The Dead consolidated its comeback by touring constantly, including a historic pairing with another longtime rock legend, Bob Dylan. A restless Garcia played additional dates with another group, including a sensational series of performances on Broadway.

Warren Zevon, the brilliant songwriter who was one of the '70s most notorious bad boys, returned to the mainstream after undergoing alcohol rehabilitation with an excellent album, "Sentimental Hygiene." Zevon confronted his problems in songs like "Trouble Waiting To Happen," "Bad Karma" and "Detox Mansion." Zevon's tour was one of the year's most exciting comebacks.

Gregg Allman was another rehabilitated rocker who came up with a top-flight comeback in "I'm No Angel." Allman's



U2: a truly international sound that is one of the few real innovations to come out of '80s rock.



Jerry Garcia of Grateful Dead came back with "In The Dark".

won fame as leader of the Box Tops in the '60s British rockers Jethro Tull, Yes and Pink Floyd; Motown's classic vocal group The Temptations and the lascivious soul monologist Barry White; southern rockers Lynyrd Skynyrd and the Atlanta Rhythm Section; guitar hero Duane Eddy; John Kay of Steppenwolf; the gravel-voiced Joe Cocker and ex-mothers of invention bassist Jimmy Carl Black.

Perhaps the most dramatic comeback of 1987 was that of the grandaddy of all rockers, Chuck Berry. Largely through the efforts of musical director Keith Richards, who assembled the greatest band Berry has worked with since at least the early '60s Berry was presented at the height of his powers for the first time in two decades in the film, *Hail! Hail! Rock 'n' Roll*.

The soundtrack, assembled from live performances celebrating Berry's 60th birthday, proves convincingly that rock 'n' rollers can still kick out the jams when they're old enough to collect social security.

Other old timers who reappeared included Joan Baez, who released a new album and controversial autobiography; Alex Chilton, who first

Aerosmith, one of the top hard rock bands of the '70s, released the comeback album "Permanent Vacation" after

Michael Jackson returned to the music scene with "Bad."

being brought back into the public eye last year by rappers Run DMC, who revived the Aerosmith chestnut "Walk This Way."

The year's most disappointing return to action, oddly enough, was from the one member of this group under 30, Michael Jackson. Though "Bad" is a skillfully made record that has justified itself commercially, it represents an artistic decline for Jackson himself after his spectacular performance on "Thriller."

1987 also was the 20th anniversary of "The Summer of Love," another factor making this a year of reminiscence. The 20th anniversary of the Beatles' watershed *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* album coincided with the release of the Beatles catalogue on compact disc.

The emergence of compact discs as a viable alternative to tapes and record inevitably brought attention to those groups that no longer exist, like the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and the Doors. A rythmistic CD, "The Jimi Hendrix Experience Live At Winterland," showed that CDs have plenty to offer, as this stunning hour-plus concert has never been available.

Los Lobos get the nod as group of the year. The uncompromising Mexican-American rockers from East Los Angeles put out the exceptional album "By The Light Of The Moon," a dense, musically eclectic set of songs that range from David Hidalgo's Steinbeckian social realism to the no-holds-barred rockers penned by Cesar Rosas.

Solidified

If that weren't enough, Los Lobos recorded most of the soundtrack for "La Bamba," a film about the life of Mexican-American pop star Ritchie Valens. The band's version of the title track was certainly the song of the year, hanging in at No. 1 for three weeks despite fierce competition from heavily promoted new singles by Michael Jackson and Whitney Houston.

Best new group of the year

was the Radiators, who came blasting out of the New Orleans with a strong major label debut, "Law Of The Fish."

Prince solidified his standing as the most accomplished synthesizer of black and white pop styles, while at the same time showing tremendous maturation as a songwriter on the ambitious two-record set, "Sign Of The Times."

Though it may sound hard to believe, Bruce Springsteen was another rocker whose songwriting matured substantially. As good as Springsteen was in the past, " Tunnel Of Love" revealed that the boss is capable of handling the complexities of interpersonal relationship with a dramatist's touch more closely associated with the Bob Dylan's "Blood On The Tracks," or Elvis Costello's "Imperial Bedroom."

John Cougar Mellencamp delved even more deeply into his heartland roots for "The Lonesome Jubilee," the most authentically American rock album of the year. Mixing Bible imagery with personal observation, Mellencamp drastically revamped his sound to add a more country, blues and cajun atmosphere to his arrangements. The resulting tour was one of the year's finest shows.

U2 consolidated its position as the world's best rock band. The stark, atmospheric sound of "The Joshua Tree" provided the basis for a dramatic concert tour that somehow combined anemic political urgency with spine-chilling rock dynamics.

Michael Jackson, returned to the music scene with "Bad."

Rick Astley No. 1 in UK

George Michael stays atop US pop charts

NEW YORK (AP): George Michael kept his *Faith* holding on to the top of the single pop record charts in the United States for the third week in a row.Whitesnake's *I'm This Love* hopped up one notch to second spot on the Cash Box magazine chart, and former Beatle George Harrison vaulted from eighth to third position with *Get My Mind Set On You*.Last week's number two hit, Linda Carlisle's *Heaven Is A Place On Earth*, topped out of the top ten list completely.Soaring onto the list was *The Way You Make Me Feel* by Michael Jackson, up from 13th to 7th. Two other newcomers were Valerie by Steve Winwood, up from 11th to 9th, and *Need You Tonight* by INXS, up from 14th to 10th.Highway 101 took over the number spot on the Cash Box magazine country-and-western singles chart with *Somewhere Tonight*. Kenny Rogers was second with *I Prefer The Moonlight*, and Hank Williams Jr. was third with *Heaven Can Be Found*.And in London Rick Astley topped the British pop singles chart for 1987 with *Never Gonna Give You Up*, a week after his latest single *When I Fall In Love My Arms Keep Missing You* moved into first place.Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now, by the group Starship, took second place followed by Whitney Houston's *I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)*.

Top Ten US

The ten top pop singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) *Faith* — George Michael (Columbia)
- (2) *Is This Love* — Whitesnake (Geffen)
- (3) *Get My Mind Set On You* — George Harrison (Dark Horse-Warner Brothers)
- (4) *So Emotional* — Whitney Houston (Arista)
- (5) *Don't You Want Me* — Jody Watley (MCA)
- (6) *Shake Your Love* — Debbie Gibson (Atlantic)
- (7) *The Way You Make Me Feel* — Michael Jackson (Epic)
- (8) *(Catch Me) I'm Falling* — Pretty Poison (Virgin)
- (9) *Valerie* — Steve Winwood (Island-Warner Brothers)
- (10) *Need You Tonight* — INXS (Atlantic)

The ten top country-western singles as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

- (1) *Somewhere Tonight* —

Highway 101 (Warner Brothers)

(2) *I Prefer The Moonlight* — Kenny Rogers (RCA)(3) *Heaven Can't Be Found* — Hank Williams Jr. (Warner Brothers-Curb)(4) *I Can't Get Close Enough* — Exile (Epic)(5) *Do Ya* — K.T. Oslin (RCA)(6) *One Friend* — Dan Seals (Capitol)(7) *I'll Pin A Note On Your Pillow* — Billy Joe Royal (Atlantic America)(8) *She Couldn't Love Me Anymore* — I. Graham Brown (Capitol)(9) *Goin' Gone* — Kathy Mattea (Mercury-Polygram)(10) *Where Do The Nights Go* — Ronnie Milsap (RCA)

And in London Rick Astley

topped the British pop singles chart for 1987 with *Never Gonna Give You Up*, a week after his latest single *When I Fall In Love My Arms Keep Missing You* moved into first place.Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now, by the group Starship, took second place followed by Whitney Houston's *I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)*.

Top Ten Singles 1987

There was no listing for the week's top 10 singles. Instead Melody Maker magazine listed this year's top 10 singles, which included a tie for sixth place. They are:

1. *Never Gonna Give Up* — Rick Astley — RCA
2. *Nothing's Gonna Stop Us Now* — Starship — Grunt
3. *I Wanna Dance With Somebody (Who Loves Me)* — Whitney Houston — Arista
4. *Under The Boardwalk* — Bruce Springsteen — Epic
5. *You Win Again* — Bee Gees — Warner Bros.
6. *Can't Be With You Tonight* — Judy Boucher — Orbisone
7. *Always* — Atlantic Starr — Warner Bros.
8. *Pump Up The Volume* — Marrs — 4AD
9. *Respectable* — Mel and Kim — Supreme
10. *Down To Earth* — Curiosity Killed the Cat — Mercury

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart

B.C.



By Johnny Hart

YOUR STARS



Aries (March 21 - April 19)

You should take even better care of your health. Do not allow some small upset to disturb your peace of mind. No harm in having a bit of gentle fun. Be cordial.



Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

You will be able to come to quite an important decision. With a little more generosity on your part you will be able to resolve a personal problem. If you eat sensibly you will not have to diet drastically.



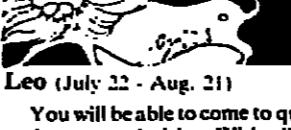
Gemini (May 21 - June 21)

There will be some moments of tension but you will know how to deal with them. Do not try to lay down the law just now. Avoid exaggerations and do not boast. Be resilient.



Cancer (June 22 - July 22)

You should not hesitate to say what is on your mind but do so tactfully. A certain readiness to make concessions will stand you in good stead. You will be able to do a friend something of a favour.



Leo (July 23 - Aug. 23)

You will be able to come to quite an important decision. With a little more generosity on your part you will be able to resolve a personal problem. If you eat sensibly you will not have to diet drastically.



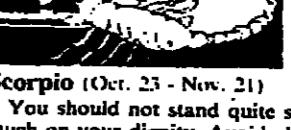
Virgo (Aug. 24 - Sept. 22)

You should avoid doing anything outrageous. You will be able to resolve a more personal problem. You will be able to have a sign of relief about something that did not happen. Be prompt.



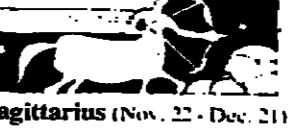
Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22)

You should not take everything quite so literally. While you continue to be in a slightly bad mood make doubly sure you do not get into an argument. Take even better care whilst on the road.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

You should not stand quite so much on your dignity. Avoid allowing your emotions to get the upper hand and distort your judgment. Do not let thoughts of the future spoil your enjoyment of the present. Be hopeful.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You will be more susceptible to strain and should do your best to relax. A solution to a problem that has been troubling you is close at hand. Now is a good time to take stock of your situation.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You should not even try to evade your responsibilities. Seek to do things a little more systematically yet without becoming too rigid. If you have had some late nights make up for lost sleep. Be tactful.



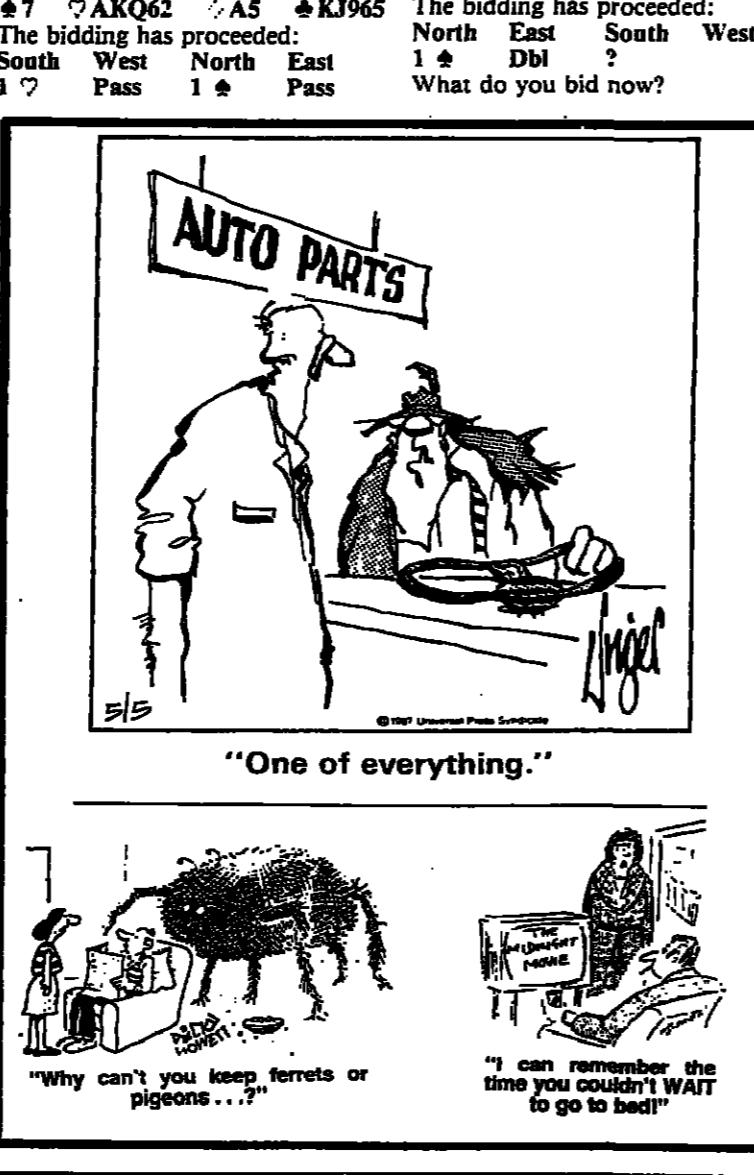
Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will be able to make progress in a more practical matter. You should not neglect something you know requires more immediate attention.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

Today something that has been puzzling you will become more clear. You will feel rather at ease and quite pleased with yourself. You will be able to seize hold of a good opportunity. Be considerate.



"One of everything."

"Why can't you keep ferrets or pigeons...?"

TODAY'S CROSSWORD

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♦ 72 **9542** **♦ KJ93** **♦ 875**
 The bidding has proceeded:
 North East South West
 2 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Hong Kong official insists on currency's link to dollar

HONG KONG, Dec 25, (AP): Financial Secretary Piers Jacobs reiterated yesterday Hong Kong's refusal to alter the link between its currency and the US dollar, despite calls for adjustment from major industrialised nations.

"A stable exchange rate is of enormous importance to Hong Kong in the coming years," Jacobs, the British colony's top financial official, told a press conference.

The Group of Seven major industrialised nations (G-7) yesterday called on "some newly industrialised economies" to allow their currencies appreciate, which would tend to reduce their trade surpluses. The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) issued a similar call a day earlier.

Hong Kong is considered newly industrialised economy and the OECD estimated that the colony posted a current account surplus last year of \$1.6 billion.

But Hong Kong's Secretary for Monetary Affairs, David Nendick, told reporters on Wednesday that the OECD figure "should have the label of fiction rather than fact."

Deficit

He said he believed it was impossible to reckon the figure accurately, but that according to the government's best estimate, Hong Kong actually ran a small current account deficit last year.

Hong Kong governor Sir David Wilson criticised the OECD for lumping the colony together with other newly industrialised countries such as South Korea and Taiwan, which he said did run large trade surpluses.

The Hong Kong dollar, which has been pegged at 7.80 to \$1.00 since October 1983, stood at 7.765 in East Asian trading on Wednesday.

US Commerce Department to investigate oil imports

WASHINGTON, Dec 25, (Reuter): The US Commerce Department has accepted to study whether oil imports threaten the nation's security and should be controlled by a tariff, a leading US senator said today.

Lloyd Bensten, a Democrat from the leading oil-producing state of Texas, said the study would lay the ground for presidential action to control oil prices.

Reliance

A request for the study was first made this month by a group of independent US oil companies and trade associations in a petition to the Commerce Department.

Commerce Department officials were not immediately available to comment.

"I am deeply troubled by our burgeoning reliance on imported oil," said Bensten, the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. "In regard to oil imports, our country is playing with fire."

Bensten said almost 50 per cent of the oil now used in the United States was imported, compared with 32 per cent in 1985.

Under the law the department has up to one year to complete the investigation, Bensten's office said.

China's exports hit record in '87

BEIJING, Dec 25, (Reuter): China's exports had reached a record \$31.7 billion by the end of November, 29.9 per cent over the same period of 1986, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade said today.

The 1987 total was expected to be \$34 billion compared with 27 billion last year, the ministry said.

Surplus

The official People's Daily, reporting the figures, said that it was the first time that exports had passed the \$30 billion mark.

Imports were not mentioned but the ministry said that total two-way trade in the fast 11 months of 1987 was \$58.3 billion implying a surplus of about \$5 billion.

With its currency pegged strictly but unofficially to the falling US dollar, China's exports have benefited this year, while its imports have been held down by tighter controls on foreign currency.

Scepticism grows over substance of G-7 currency pact

Move to stabilise dollar could falter quickly

NEW YORK, Dec 25, (AP): The latest international decree to stabilise the wobbly dollar may work for a while, but could collapse in a few weeks if the US trade deficit doesn't improve.

Economists and money traders said the statement released late Tuesday by seven major industrialised countries was a defensive tactic aimed at preventing a free-fall of the dollar.

Scheduled

Of particular concern to economists is the Commerce Department's report of monthly trade deficits, an emotionally and politically charged event that is the most visible marker of America's declining economic might. It has been partly responsible for the dollar's erosion in the past two years.

The Commerce Department's announcement of the trade figures for November is scheduled for Jan 15. Many economists regard this announcement as the first major test of the G-7 pledge to defend the dollar's value.

When the October trade

figures released Dec 10 showed a record \$17.6 billion shortfall, the dollar tumbled to record lows despite countermeasures by central banks.

A cheaper dollar theoretically helps US manufacturers by making their products more competitive abroad and raising the price of imports. But the US appetite for imports has swelled, and that could lead to higher inflation.

Although export sales have been rising, too, any new sign that the trade deficit is ballooning is bound to intensify congressional calls for protectionist legislation and send the dollar tumbling.

"The G-7 statement hasn't changed the fundamentals at all," said John O. Wilson, senior vice president and chief economist at Bank of America in San Francisco.

"It's a fairly innocuous statement, lacking substance, weaker than prior statements.

There wasn't even the usual commitment to reference zones to keep the dollar at current levels," Wilson said. "It was more of a defensive move. The G-7 ministers bought themselves time, that's what they were doing."

Judging by the immediate market reaction, the statement helped. The dollar stabilised, stocks rallied, bond prices rose and interest rates fell.

But many economists said the slow holiday trading made it difficult to conclude that the G-7 statement was the cause of the dollar's stability.

"The first major test will come in January," said Varick Martin, vice president of foreign exchange at the Union Bank of Switzerland's New York branch.

"There's really no market now. Only 5 per cent to 10 per cent of the market is in. That's insufficient to tell you what the direction is."

Some economists were reluc-

tant to rule out the possibility that the G-7 statement would have a powerful, long-lasting effect.

They argued that it came against a background of efforts by Japan and West Germany to stimulate demand for imports in their export-oriented economies, as well as a new fiscal 1988 US budget that fulfilled the government's pledge to cut the deficit by \$76 billion.

If these developments represent the beginnings of a fundamental shift in the global economic equation, then the dollar could steady and even rise significantly.

Maury Harris, chief economist at the New York investment firm PaineWebber Inc., said that if the trade figures released next month show improvement, the G-7 statement will be taken more seriously.

"This can work if the trade deficit comes down, as I expect it will," he said.

Japan no longer sees weak dollar spelling doom

TOKYO, Dec 25, (Reuter): A surprise upturn for the Japanese economy has nearly quelled cries of despair over the dollar's fall as Japan no longer sees the stronger yen spelling doom.

"People had been convinced Japan's economy would be hard hit from the high yen, but growth has been remarkable," said Takanashi Kiuchi, senior economist of Long-term Bank of Japan.

Japan is still concerned about the weakening dollar but no longer sees its decline portending a great disaster, Bank of Tokyo chairman Yusuke Kashiwagi told foreign journalists last week.

Growth

The Japanese public and business leaders have been reassured by the nation's strong economic growth, and the declining dollar is not the key topic of their conversation any longer, Kashiwagi's treasury division.

In Europe, where business still remains sluggish, worries over a further dollar slide seem much

more acute, he said.

European stock markets were hit much harder than the Tokyo market in mid-October and Europeans tend to view the outlook for a business recovery more in terms of the exchange rate, one bank economist said.

US officials have said they do not want a lower dollar, neither have they clearly called for a halt in its slide. Though the dollar has fallen sharply, the US trade deficit has not narrowed as hoped.

The weaker dollar has made Japanese goods less competitive in the American market, but other Asian countries have secured the business Japan lost.

"American people seem to believe that the dollar should be just going down," said Soichi Hirabayashi, deputy general manager of Fuji Bank Ltd's treasury division.

The dollar, which already has lost half its value since major industrial nations agreed in Sep-

tember 1985 to allow its fall, now trades at around 126.50 yen and threatens to tumble even further, foreign exchange dealers said.

Some dealers said they see 120 yen just around the corner and 115 yen or lower by early next year.

Fall

Over the past two years Japan had predicted the dollar's fall would lead to disaster, as its exporters, the then powerhouse of its economy, became unable to compete in overseas markets.

But contrary to expectations, Japan's consumer and business demand at home for goods and services exploded and gross national product (GNP) surged a surprising inflation-adjusted 2.2 per cent in the July-September quarter from the previous quarter.

The second quarter had shown no growth.

Though the weak dollar put strains on exporters, the strong yen also accelerated internal

growth by reducing costs of imported basic materials at a time when consumers and businesses started spending more. The economy was further helped by an injection of government funds.

A boom in construction of houses and offices has been the driving force for the new economic activity but that should shift more to corporate spending, economists said.

Corporations are firing up their production lines as Japanese consumers buy more, they added.

The expansion of the economy should also allow exporters to become more dependent on the home market, said Susumu Taketomi, senior economists for Industrial Bank of Japan.

The Japanese government now officially sees GNP in the next financial year from April to be a remarkable 3.8 per cent against nearly the same 3.7 per cent this year.

South Korea reports reduced trade deficit with Japan

SEOUL, Dec 25, (AP): South Korea's November trade deficit with Japan shrank to \$346 million down from \$378 million in the same month last year, the Korea Foreign Trade Association reported yesterday.

It was the fourth consecutive month Korea's trade deficit with Japan declined compared to the same period a year ago.

Officials said that Korea between January and November ran a trade deficit of \$4.82 billion with Japan, down \$70 million from the same period last year.

On the other hand, lessened controls means many Chinese exporters are free to spend the foreign currency they earn on imported machinery and wasteful investment projects.

Earlier this month, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade announced plans to reform the foreign trade system in 1988 by giving enterprises even more autonomy while setting up new chambers of commerce and trade agencies to coordinate exports.

The ministry officials said that Korean exports to Japan in November jumped 62.1 per cent to \$905 million and imports from Japan rose 33.6 per cent to \$1.25 billion.

Korean exports to Japan between January and November soared 53.4 per cent to \$7.48 billion from the same period last year, while imports rose 25.9 per cent to \$12.3 billion.

Economic growth slows

SANTIAGO, Chile, Dec 25, (AP): Economic growth in the heavily-indebted Latin American nations slowed down in 1987, while inflation increased steeply, a United Nations agency reported yesterday.

A boom in construction of houses and offices has been the driving force for the new economic activity but that should shift more to corporate spending, economists said.

Corporations are firing up their production lines as Japanese consumers buy more, they added.

The expansion of the economy should also allow exporters to become more dependent on the home market, said Susumu Taketomi, senior economists for Industrial Bank of Japan.

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China agrees loans to Sudan

BEIJING, Dec 25, (Reuter): China said yesterday it had granted a loan to Sudan, at the end of a visit by Sudanese Prime Minister Sadiq Al Mahdi in which the African leader confirmed that Beijing was supplying Sudan with arms, foreign economic relations and Trade Minister Zheng Tuotong signed the loan agreement with Sudanese Minister of Trade Ibrahim Hassan Abdal Galli in Beijing yesterday, the New China News Agency said. The two countries also agreed on a trade protocol for 1988 and a cultural co-operation plan, the agency added without giving details.

Mahdi told reporters yesterday there was a "limited, on-going programme" on arms sales to China. The weapons were used for defensive purposes by Sudan, which is fighting against rebels in the south of the country, he said. Sudan and Ethiopia had agreed to resolve their differences, Mahdi added. China has friendly relations with Ethiopia. Mahdi said he had discussed with Chinese leaders the two countries' policies towards supporting different liberation movements in Africa and the Middle East.

World Business Summary

MITI wants to discuss US semi-conductors

TOKYO, Dec 25, (AP): The Ministry of International Trade and Industry will ask for a meeting with US officials to discuss the semi-conductor trade and US tariffs remaining on Japanese products, a report said today. The major daily Yomiuri Shimbun reported that MITI hopes to meet with US trade representatives and members of the US Semi-conductor Industry Association early next year in Hawaii.

MITI hopes the meeting would result in the early lifting of the remaining portion of US penalty tariffs on Japanese electronic products. Officials of MITI declined to comment on the report.

US President Ronald Reagan in April slapped \$360 million in tariffs on Japanese televisions, power tools and small computers for Japan's alleged violation of a 1986 semi-conductor trade pact. The tariffs were placed in retaliation for Japan's alleged refusal to stop flooding world markets with low-cost computer chips and to give non-Japanese manufacturers more access to Japanese electronics markets. A total of \$135 million of the trade restrictions have since been lifted because of Japanese progress toward compliance with the agreement, and following a US Commerce Department report that Japanese chip manufacturers had stopped "dumping," or selling chips at below fair market prices, on world markets. About \$165 million of the sanctions remain. Foreign semi-conductor chips account for 12.4 per cent of the Japanese market, according to Japanese statistics, and 10 per cent according to US accounts.

White House suspends duty-free trade status

WASHINGTON, Dec 25, (AP): The White House suspended duty-free trade status yesterday for nearly \$60 million of arms imports from Chile, citing its alleged suppression of free trade unions and other violations of internationally recognised workers' rights. Deputy US Trade Representative Alan Holmer said Chile will be suspended from the US Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) programme 60 days after a proclamation signed by President Ronald Reagan is published in the Federal Register.

The proclamation will be within a few days, US officials said. The officials said the arrest of several prominent Chilean labour leaders following a one-day nationwide strike in October "suggested a retrogression in the workers' rights climate in that country, rather than progress," Holmer said. The term of the suspension is indefinite. According to figures from the trade representative's office, the United States in 1986 imported \$59.4 million of duty-free goods from Chile—primarily plywood, fish, copper, sodium chloride, lithium compounds and assorted vegetab-

les. Under the GSP programme, instituted in 1976 and renewed by Congress in 1984, some 3,000 products from 141 designated countries or territories get preferential duty-free entry to the United States. One of the conditions for participation is that beneficiary countries abide by several international workers' rights formulated by the International Labour Organisation, an arm of the United Nations. Those rights include prohibitions against child labour and recognition of free association and collective bargaining.

A SPECIAL SURVEY ON JAPAN

During the third week of January, 1988, Arab Times will publish a special survey on Japan during Japan Week in Kuwait.

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SALMIYA, fully furnished, one bedroom, CAC, including tele for sale. KD250. Ono. Rent KD140. Available from 1st January 88. Tele. Mr Kamal, 4814093, 9 am - 7 pm & 5631216, after 8.30 pm. (AT5-40246-3)

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CEMBER 26

SPORTS

NBA ROUNDUP

Tripucka takes Utah to win over Cleveland

NEW YORK, Dec 25. (AP): Utah coach Frank Layden delivered a simple message to Kelly Tripucka.

"Hey, go for it," he said, and Tripucka made the most of a rare opportunity to play by sparking the Jazz to a 91-83 victory Wednesday night over Cleveland. Tripucka scored 13 of his 15 points in the final 5:33. There were no games yesterday.

There was another message inherent in what Layden said. If Tripucka plays well, he'll get more playing time.

"If teams were wondering if I could still play, maybe tonight proved I can," said Tripucka, former Detroit Pistons all-star who reportedly is on the trading block again. "I feel I don't have to prove anything because this is my seventh year, and I have five good ones behind me."

Utah ended a six-game road losing streak. The Jazz, who had lost four in a row, is just 2-11 on the road this season, but has won six in a row at Cleveland, which had a three-game winning streak broken.

Elsewhere, it was Golden State 129, Denver 117; Dallas 110, Indiana 109; Philadelphia 110, New Jersey 106; New York 90, Chicago 59; Seattle 103; Phoenix 102; San Antonio 111; Los Angeles Clippers 97, and Los Angeles Lakers 117; Sacramento 103.

In his second season with the Jazz, Tripucka had played only 168 minutes in Utah's 24 previous games.

"It's been very frustrating and stressful," Tripucka said. "Hopefully my situation will be worked out very soon."

Karl Malone scored 26 points for Utah, while Mark Price led Cleveland with 26.

Warriors 129, Nuggets 117

Tony White, a rookie guard, scored 15 of his career-high 21 points in the fourth quarter as Golden State held on to snap a five-game losing streak and knock the Nuggets out of first place in the Midwest Division.

The loss dropped the Nuggets a half game behind Dallas.

Terry Teague led weight Warriors in double figures with 23 points as Golden State won for only the fourth time in 22 games this season. The victory came after consecutive losses of 138-108 to Seattle and 136-91 to Portland and was Golden State's first victory since acquiring Ralph Sampson from Houston.

Sampson had 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Mavericks 110, Pacers 108

Rolando Blackman hit two free throws with seven seconds left to give Dallas the lead, and Roy Tarpley blocked Wayman Tisdale's shot as time expired to preserve the victory.

Mark Aguirre led the Mavericks with 36 points, and Derek Harper had 16.

Dallas led by as many as 17 points in the third quarter, but the Pacers tied the score 97-97 with 5:35 to play.

Chuck Person had 31 points and 17 rebounds for Indiana.

76ers 110, Nets 106

Cliff Robinson and Charles Barkley combined for 11 of Philadelphia's final 15 points as the 76ers held off New Jersey. Robinson had a season-high 32 points and Barkley, despite a constant barrage of pushing and shoving that had him talking to himself on the court, had 31.

The Nets cut an eight-point lead to 95-93 with 4:34 to play before Robinson and Barkley went to work.

Pearl Washington scored 27 points for New Jersey.

Knicks 90, Bulls 89

Patrick Ewing drove the baseline with 15 seconds left, hitting a layup that gave the Knicks a one-point victory over Chicago. The Knicks held Michael Jordan, who came into the game with a league-leading average of 33.9 points, to just 16, matching his season low.

MEXICO CITY, Dec 25. (Reuter): Mexico's 1988 Formula One motor racing Grand Prix has been called off because of the country's economic crisis.

The private organisers of the race, scheduled for next June 3, said they were cancelling it to support the government's recent tough austerity measures.

Waste

The pre-Christmas announcement on Wednesday night came as a shock to the country's sporting community but was welcomed by most Mexicans, who saw the race as a waste of money and exclusively for the jet set.

The cancellation reflected Mexico's worst-ever economic crisis, with growing discontent

REID PULLS OUT OF AUSTRALIAN SQUAD

Kiwis need Crowe's return to form



Hadlee: needs 11 wickets to pass Botham's Test record

W. Indies seek to secure Test series

Richards to rely on 'pace power'



Richards: on trial

CALCUTTA, India, Dec 25. (Reuter): Viv Richards is again expected to use his formidable new set of West Indian pace bowlers to secure the four-match series by blasting India into submission in their third cricket Test starting tomorrow.

Richard's team won the opening Test by five wickets and his fast bowlers have dominated an unreliable Indian batting lineup.

Few changes are likely in the combination which drew with India in the last Test at Bombay, with Patrick Patterson again spearheading the pace attack.

But what is still unclear is the method of Patterson's bowling, which was criticised by Indian newspapers as being short-pitched and intimidatory.

Patterson was reported to have been provoked into his aggressive bowling in retaliation to short-pitched bowling by Indian medium pacer Chetan Sharma.

The West Indian pace attack includes Courtney Walsh, Winston Davis and Winston Benjamin, who with Patterson are bidding to make up for the

problems start with a batting line-up which has failed in almost every innings of the series so far.

There were few Indian batting successes except for Vengsarkar.

absence of Joel Garner, who has retired, and Malcolm Marshall, who decided to miss this trip.

For Richard's Indian counterpart Dilip Vengsarkar, the

white. We have put our house in order over the last few seasons and now we are the good guys.

"We've been missed abroad and I have a feeling most of the continentals want us. That's why it's vital we stay in touch at the top of the table because it's important this club qualifies."

Arsenal are currently in second place with 40 points from 20 games, seven points behind leaders Liverpool and just three points ahead of Forest with two more games played.

Forest have not won at Arsenal for 23 years — 13 of them under Clough's unique style of leadership — and victory would lift them into second place and set them up for a genuine challenge to Liverpool, whom

they still have to meet twice.

Clough was at pains to play down any question of a "Highburyjinx," and said: "All records have to end sometime and our Arsenal history doesn't bother us."

"We've come close a few times in recent years and there's no reason why we shouldn't take all three points on this occasion."

Clough, preparing for tomorrow's intriguing clash with Arsenal at Highbury, said: "The time is ripe to get back into Europe and I don't see why it shouldn't happen."

Compared with the trouble that has been going on in places like Holland, Italy and West Germany, this country is lily-

pared.

Pleat joins Leicester

LEICESTER, England, Dec 25. (Reuter): Former Tottenham Hotspur manager David Pleat joined struggling Second Division club Leicester yesterday.

Pleat, who resigned from his £100,000 (\$180,000) a year post at Tottenham in October after newspaper allegations about his private life, will attempt to rescue Leicester from being relegated for the second successive season.

The spokesman said Hingsen and Milser were placed under investigation as the result of an

allegation made by one person, whom he did not identify.

He said the offence of which the two men are suspected is relatively minor and would have attracted little notice if the athletes were not so well known.

Hingsen, 29, was silver medallist at the World Championships in 1983 and Los Angeles Olympics in 1984, but failed to win a medal in this year World Championships in Rome after pulling out of the competition with a knee injury.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball pitcher

NEW YORK, Dec 25. (AP): Pitcher Dave Righetti, who spurned a reported \$10-million offer to play in Japan, agreed in principle Wednesday to a three-year, \$4.5-million deal that will keep him with the New York Yankees through the 1990 season. Righetti becomes the first pitcher to get more than a two-year deal since baseball's free agent market tightened up in the winter of 1985.

Belgian coach

BRUSSELS, Dec 25. (Reuter): Former international defender Walter Meeuws will succeed Guy Thys as Belgian national team coach in July 1989. Soccer union secretary-general Alain Courtous said Meeuws, 36, will assist Thys from July 1988 and will take full responsibility from July of the following year.

W. German driver

BONN, Dec 25. (Reuter): West German Formula One driver Christian Danner has failed to land a contract with the French LC-Lola team and appears to be without a drive for the coming season.

Top sportsman

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec 25. (Reuter): Basketball hero Oscar Schmidt, a three-point specialist, was named Brazilian Sportsman of the Year in a poll conducted by Placar, a sports magazine, it was reported yesterday.

National draw

CAIRO, Dec 25. (Reuter): National drew 1-1 (half-time 1-0) with fellow Cairo side Zamalek today in an Egyptian Soccer League match.

S. African athletes

MBABANE, Dec 25. (Reuter): Swaziland has barred three South African athletes from representing it at the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games, the chairman of Swaziland's Olympic and Commonwealth Games Association, Geoff Reef, said.

World Cup

VIENNA, Austria, Dec 25. (AP): A warm weather front that melted away ice tracks has forced organisers to call off the men's World Cup downhill scheduled to be staged at Schladming on Dec 31, the Austrian APA news agency reported yesterday.

Shoriki Cup

TOKYO, Dec 25. (AP): Led by world super-heavyweight champion Grigory Verichev of the Soviet Union, field of 105 judoka from 21 countries will compete in the 6th Shoriki Cup international collegiate judo championships in Tokyo in January, organisers said yesterday.

Graham Rix

LONDON, Dec 25. (UPI): Former England midfielder Graham Rix makes his debut for Third Division Brentford tomorrow after joining the club on a month's loan from Arsenal. Rix, 30, has recovered from a long-standing Achilles tendon injury and will begin his comeback with Brentford which is at home to Aldershot.

Games bid

MANCHESTER, England, Dec 25. (UPI): The city of Manchester has put in a last-minute bid to be considered for the British nomination to host the 1996 summer Olympic Games.

1988 Games

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia, Dec 25. (AP): A senior Soviet sports official said today that he expected Moscow would send a team to the 1988 summer Olympic Games in Seoul, the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug reported.

Liverpool to face Napoli

AN official source at United Arab Emirates' Jazira football club revealed yesterday that the details for an international match between Napoli of Italy and Liverpool of England would be announced this week.

The source said that the match would be held at the Sheikh Zayed stadium which can accommodate 50,000 spectators and is one of the biggest in the region.

The source added that the fin-

SOUTH KOREA WIN ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Al Bloushi captures boxing gold

ALI Al Bloushi, Kuwait's only finalist at the 13th Asian Boxing Championship, brought the crowd to its feet as he overcame a strong challenge from Pakistan's Dildar Ahmed to capture the gold medal in the super-heavyweight category at Kuwait's Handball Federation Hall on Thursday evening.

Al Bloushi, Pakistan's Hussain Shah and Mongolia's Baya Khan were the only boxers in the 12 categories to prevent a total sweep by the South Koreans, who won the championship with nine golds.

Moved

Al Bloushi's victory not only brought a gold medal to his country but also moved Kuwait into fourth place in the medals standings. The only other medal won by Kuwait was a bronze through Yousef Al Amer in the light-middleweight class.

Dildar Ahmed had a big advantage in height and reach but found that Al Bloushi always remained too close for comfort. Al Bloushi kept on taking the fight to his opponent and the judges were unanimous in their decision in his favour at the end of the bout.

Al Bloushi's punches packed a lot of power and whenever he made contact, Dildar found himself in trouble.

Pakistan's Hussein Shah made sure that his country went home with at least one gold medal when he outpunched his Syrian opponent Hussain Kurdiya. Baya Khan of Mongolia found himself in similar circumstances against a tough opponent, Adrianos of



Al Bloushi (right) raises his arms in victory.

Indonesia, but came out on top.

Besides these three fighters, the day belonged to the South Koreans. They were a class of their own as boxers from the other countries wilted under their onslaught. With such a big haul, South Koreans have sounded out a warning to the other countries which will take part in the 1988 Olympics in Seoul.

South Korea with nine golds were followed on the medals table by Mongolia with one gold and two silvers. Pakistanis were in third place with one gold, one silver, and six bronzes.

Kuwait had one gold and one bronze. Iraq captured four silver and five bronze, Thailand one silver and one bronze, India one silver and eight bronze, Indonesia one silver and one bronze, Syria one silver and Japan and Sri Lanka one bronze each.

The finals were attended by Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmed, the chairman of the Olympic Council of Asia, who was deputising for Sheikh Jaber Al Ali — the patron of the championship.

Organiser

Also present were the president of the International Boxing Federation, Anwar Choudhry, and the president of the Kuwait Boxing Federation, Sheikh Mubarak Jaber Al Ali, who was the organiser of the event.

The prizes were given to the winners at the end of the finals by Sheikh Fahd, Sheikh Mubarak and Anwar Choudhry.

Sheikh Mubarak, in a speech during the closing ceremonies, said that Kuwait had gained a lot of experience by staging this event. He thanked all the participants in the championship for



Anwar Choudhry presents a medal to one of the winners.

(Mongolia).

Welterweight: Kwang Su (S. Korea) beat Ravi Chand (India).

Light-middleweight: Park Si (S. Korea) beat Abbas Khalil (Iraq).

Middleweight: Hussain Shah (Pakistan) beat Hussain Kurdiya (Syria).

Light-heavyweight: Kim Young (S. Korea) beat Aamer Jabber (Iraq).

Heavyweight: Tak Hiu (S. Korea) beat Ahmad Sabri (Iraq).

Super-heavyweight: Ali Al Bloushi (Kuwait) beat Dildar Ahmed (Pakistan).



Al Bloushi receives his gold medal from Sheikh Fahd.

Fay renews call for multinational Cup

SAN DIEGO, Dec 25. (AP): New Zealander Michael Fay delivered Christmas wishes to the San Diego yacht club this week, with a letter that reopened his call for a multinational America's Cup regatta and accused Sail America of trying to "jimmy the rules."

Fay's letter accompanied final documents from a New York supreme court judge who ordered SDYC to accept a challenge issued by Fay or forfeit the prestigious sailing trophy.

Judge Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick signed her Nov 25 ruling that Fay's challenge for a 1988 race in 90-foot waterline boats was valid.

Battle

In his three-page letter, Fay also disputed the approximate dates Sail America has set for its one-on-one battle against Auckland's Mercury Bay Boating Club, and blasted the syndicate for considering using a multihull boat and moving the race from San Diego waters.

Sail America is managing the yacht club's defense.

Fay said Sail America chief operating officer Tom Ehman said he intended "jimmy the rules" to guarantee a successful

defence, a claim Ehman denied. "I don't understand where he gets that 'jimmy the rules from,'" Ehman said. "But he can't drive a wedge between San Diego Yacht Club and Sail America. You've got to have thick skin as a defender, and we've got that resolve."

He added, "I think Michael Fay is finally seeing that a line has been drawn."

Last week Fay met with SDYC officials and failed to convince them to open the race to other challengers. The yacht club says it is playing by the rules set forth in the 100-year-old deed of gift that governs America's Cup competition in excluding other syndicates.

Sail America and SDYC also have reserved the right to name a new venue and design a different class of boat, providing it meets the restrictions of the need of gift.

In his letter, Fay reiterated his objections to those proposals.

"Contrary to Sail America's stated intentions, your club may not unilaterally declare that it will select sailing courses anywhere other than off San Diego," Fay wrote.

"Nor can San Diego Yacht Club defend by sailing a multihull against a monohull," he added.



The heads of the Pakistani (left) and Indian delegations present mementos to Sheikh Mubarak.

Top-seeded Italian falls in Florida

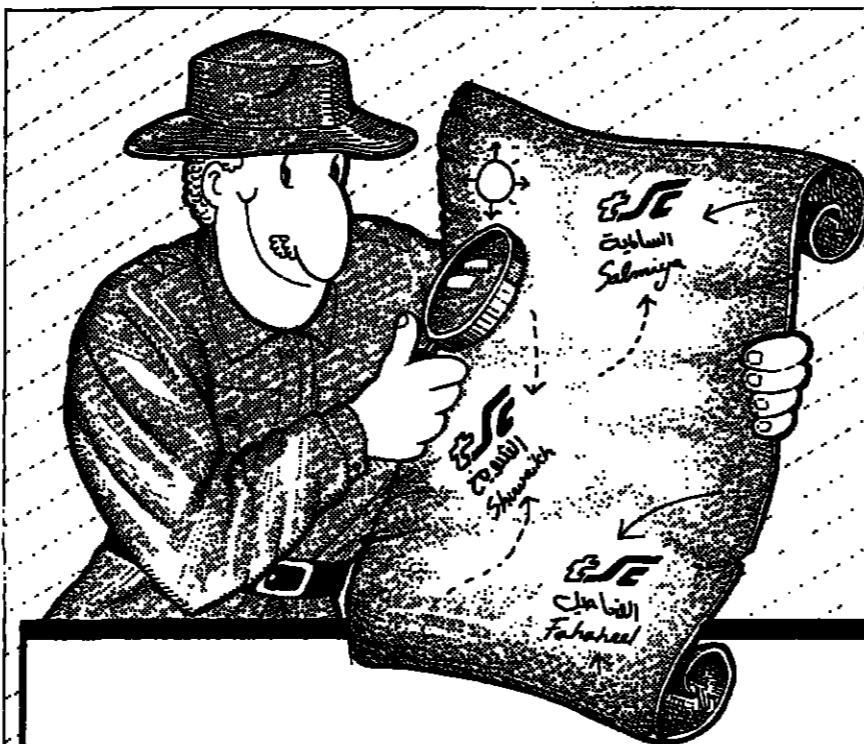
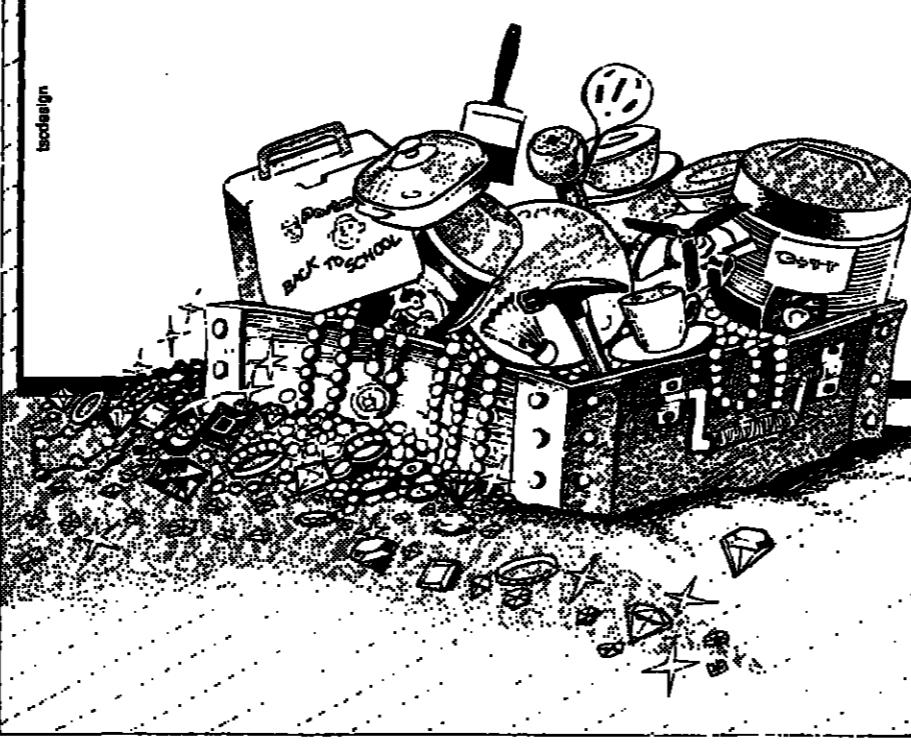
MIAMI BEACH, Florida, Dec 25. (AP): Chile's Marcarena Miranda upset top-seeded Annalisa Dell'Orso of Italy yesterday to advance to the semifinals of girls 16 play at the Orange Bowl international tennis championships.

Miranda, seeded eighth, outlasted Dell'Orso 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 in the fifth-round match. The three other players seeded among the top four advanced.

Outlasted

No. 2 Florence Labati of Argentina beat Erika Delon of the United States, 6-2, 6-3. No. 3 Audra Keller of the United States beat fifth-seeded Maureen Drake of Canada 6-4, 6-2. No. 4 Dieder Herman of the United States outlasted sixth-seeded Patricia Miller of Uruguay 6-4, 5-7, 7-5.

Jane Yates of Canada upset second-seeded Tanja Weigl of West Germany 6-3, 6-2, to advance to the quarterfinals of girls 18 play.

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